ORMSKIRK & WEST LANCASHIRE
Champion
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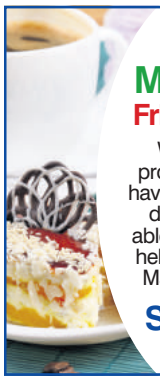
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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

All abuzz as 60,000 bees are rescued

Burscough FC re-launched as community club

NO GREEN LIGHT FOR TRAFFIC LIGHT CAMERAS AT DANGER JUNCTIONS!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

THERE are no immediate plans to install traffic light cameras at a notorious accident hotspot in Ormskirk - despite two petitions and recent dashcam footage showing an articulated lorry travelling straight through a red light without slowing down!

Seperate petitions calling for traffic light cameras at the Fiveways and Hayfield junctions on County Road have been taken by the Our West Lancashire independent political group and local resident, Maxine Mortimer, collecting 500 and 252 signatures respectively.

They were launched to coincide with a consultation run by Lancashire County Council to reduce the speed limit on the road following the deaths of two motorists in the last 10 months and numerous accidents reported over the last six years.

The consultation ended on September 12.

However Ormskirk ward County Councillor Nikki Hennessy, who along with West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper had called for the speed limit consultation, said that there won't be any traffic lights cameras installed any time soon.

Cllr. Hennessy said that red light enforcement is under the responsibility of the Speed Tasking Group - a partnership which includes Lancashire County Council and Lancashire Constabulary- and she added: "Currently, there are no plans for immediate installation of red light enforcement cameras and there are none in operation throughout the whole of Lancashire.

"The police are looking into new technologies in order for the cameras to be reliable, cost-effective and functioning accurately and are currently running trials.

"I have forwarded Maxine Mortimer's e-petition to the police for consideration as and when the cameras are at implementation stage.

Concerns

"I have also invited an officer from the LCC's Speed Management Team to attend the next Police and Communities Together meeting for Knowsley and Scott Ward so that we can talk through the various suggestions.

"I am conscious of the considerable cuts that austerity has imposed on Lancashire Police and Lancashire County Council and how this is limiting officer support in the community but I will continue to work to keep our community safe."

And Cllr. Hennessy is encouraging residents to email their concerns to her at nikki.hennessy2@lancashire.gov.uk so that she can put them directly to county council officers and cabinet members.

Meanwhile, reader Sarah Vesty who supplied dashcam footage to the Champion of a truck running a red light at the Hayfield junction says she would have been killed had she not been turning left on to County Road.

"There might not have been an accident at this time but if I hadn't have been turning I would definitely be dead by now. He is travelling way faster than he should be. I have contacted the police but I don't think anything will be done. We need to do something about this junction and at the Five Ways because this is now taking peoples lives!"

Kate Mitchell, spokesperson for Our West Lancashire in Knowsley ward, said: "OWL and the majority of the residents we spoke to believe it is essential that enforcement cameras are installed as a matter of urgency to reduce further unnecessary crashes resulting in injuries and fatalities.

"I refrain from using the word 'accidents' as drivers who willfully carry on through a red light are not doing it by 'accident'! It is a deliberate and selfish action on their part."

Our West Lancashire's Jane Thompson (left) and Kate Mitchell collecting signatures for a petition calling for traffic light cameras at junctions on County Road.

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Members of Croston Velo who completed the charity challenge with staff from Rainbow House.

Cyclists tackle ton-up challenges for charity

Report by **Kenny Parker**

MEMBERS of a cycling club tackled a series of tough 'ton-up' challenges in aid of a West Lancs charity which supports and provides an education for children and young people with physical and neurological disabilities.

More than 40 cyclists from the Croston Velo club took part, choosing one of three Rainbow Ride 100 Challenges, to raise funds for Rainbow House.

Comprising men and women of all ages from the Croston, Parbold, Mawdesley and Eccleston areas, the intrepid bikers set out from the Mawdesley-based charity for their respective 100km, 100-mile or 100-mile hilly tasks.

All three rides started and finished at Rainbow House, with the 100k and 100-mile challenges following the same route for the first 40 miles before separating at Scarisbrick from where 100-milers headed west to Formby while the 100k group went south to Aughton.

Meanwhile the 100-mile hilly riders headed North West and out over the moors at Blackburn.

The groups were made up of some experienced long-distance cyclists along with some 'first-timers' and there were a few nerves kicking in - but these soon disappeared as they were cheered off by children, parents and staff from Rainbow House.

And their sinew-straining efforts raised more than £2,400 for the charity.

Glen Higson from Croston Velo, said: "Members wanted to give something back to the community where they live. We felt that it was important that a local charity should benefit from a Croston Velo fundraising event.

"We chose Rainbow House as they are local, provide a wonderful service to children with neurological and physical disabilities and receive no statutory funding. It's a very deserving cause."

Chief executive of Rainbow House, Ben Blackman, added: "I was incredibly proud to see this ride take place for Rainbow House and knowing many of the cyclists personally made it really special.

"Many of them challenged themselves to riding a far greater distance than usual and that's what Rainbow House is all about - challenging each individual to achieve and exceed their greatest potential with our help and support."

Local Plan proposals provoke anger in neighbouring village

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Rainford Action Group say 'appalling plans would turn a rural area into urban sprawl'

PLANS revealed by West Lancs Council mapping out its vision for development in the borough over the next 30 years have provoked anger from residents in neighbouring Rainford who are calling on their own council and MP to oppose them.

The controversial Local Plan Review's Preferred Options will be subject to a West Lancs-wide six-week consultation from October 12. It proposes releasing 590 hectares of Green Belt for development; allocating space for nearly 16,000 houses and 190 hectares of land for employment uses.

The proposed areas are concentrated in Ormskirk and Skelmersdale.

However members of the Rainford Action Group have described the plans as "appalling" and say the proposed development will adversely impact on their village which comes under St Helens Borough Council.

The group say that the plans include 4,500 new houses at the M58 junction in Bickerstaffe - less than a mile from Rainford - and that 2,000 of those homes will be built on protected land on the Rainford bypass just yards from the village centre.

James Wright, chair of Rainford Action Group, said: "The people of Rainford won't be consulted on these plans to build two villages and two industrial estates on their doorstep but Rainford will be directly impacted.

"Our roads, schools, and surgeries will come under impossible strain if these houses are built. Yet any income generated by these developments will be spent elsewhere. It is totally unacceptable.

"Given St Helens Council's plans to build on protected land in the centre of Rainford, there is a growing sense the village is under siege from profit-hungry developers, greedy landowners and local authorities who ignore the wishes of the people they are supposed to serve.

"There may well be a need for new housing and jobs. But we also need to be realistic about how much development is required.

"West Lancashire's projected population growth of 6,000 people doesn't justify 15,000 new houses. And St Helens has had a falling population for decades so why the need to build so much new housing on protected land?

Map showing some areas of the large scale developments planned for across the borough. Rainford lies south east of land earmarked for 4,500 homes and two employment developments.

"These appalling plans would turn a rural area into urban sprawl. We have to respect the environment and our historic farming traditions. Tearing up the countryside while brownfield land sits rotting is reckless and irresponsible."

Rainford Action Group says it will now work with campaigners in West Lancashire to oppose the plans.

The group says it will be asking St Helens Council and St Helens North MP Conor McGinn to take a strong public stance against West Lancashire's Local Plan.

James Wright added: "If we are not careful, we could be sleep-walking into a situation where this whole area is transformed in the future and all because of spurious growth figures that have no basis in reality."

A spokesperson for West Lancs Council said: "Neighbouring councils are required to co-operate with one another as they prepare Local Plans under the Duty to Co-operate introduced by the Localism Act 2011. As such, the council has engaged with all our neighbouring authorities and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority as we have been undertaking the Local Plan Review, and they are all aware of the proposals in the Local Plan Preferred Options."

Clinical director Dr Peter Taylor (right) at the official opening of the Virgin Care Hub along with (l-r) Anita Andrews, chief operations officer; Mike Maguire, CEO West Lancs CCG and Michelle Lee, managing director, West Lancs Virgin Care.

New care hub opens at Ormskirk Hospital

A NEW care hub, bringing together different adult community services under one roof, has officially opened in Bickerstaffe House at Ormskirk Hospital.

The new health facility is run by Virgin Care and teams now operating from the site include community matrons, specialist nurses, dieticians and community therapists.

The opening event was attended by stakeholders including the NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group, patient representatives and staff.

Virgin Care runs Adult Community Services and Urgent Care Services on behalf of the NHS in West Lancs which includes community nursing and Skelmersdale and Ormskirk walk-in centres.

No chance of cold feet at this fundraiser!

THERE will be no need to worry about getting cold feet for those taking part in Rainbow House's next fundraising challenge.

For the Mawdesley-based charity, which supports children and young people with neurological and physical disabilities, is inviting people to take part in a sponsored walk over hot coals!

This will be held at The Highfield pub and grill, Southport Road, Croston on Saturday, October 6 from 7pm.

There will be a £10 entry fee for participants and the minimum age is 14 years. Registration takes place at 4.30pm on the day and full training will be given to those wishing to take part who will be required to raise a minimum £40 sponsorship.

Food and refreshments will be on sale and spectators will be welcome. There is no admission charge but there will be the opportunity to make donations during the event and The Highfield will be organising entertainment on the night.

For more information or to book a place, contact Emma Parish on 01704 823276 or email e.parish@thelegacy-rainbow-house.com.

Garage 'Pink Day' for Breast Cancer Awareness

STAFF at the 06 Vauxhall Garage 152 County Road, Ormskirk are staging a day dedicated to fighting breast cancer during Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Friday, October 5. The special Pink Day will include coffee and cake for sale at £2.50 and prize raffle tickets for £1 to be drawn on the day.

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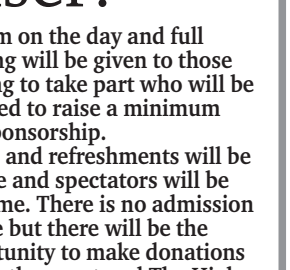

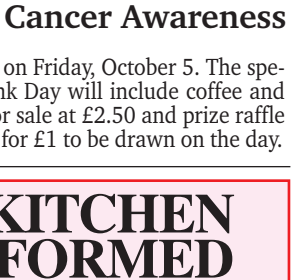

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Campaign to boost county's recycling

A NEW campaign by Lancashire County Council aims to highlight the fact that the average household in the county could recycle 50% more if everyone always put the right thing in the right bin.

Although the authority says people in Lancashire are quite good at recycling - with every property producing 4.2k of material per week - it claims this could potentially be increased by another 2.1k or the equivalent to every household saving around another 13 aluminium cans, two wine bottles, four big plastic pop bottles, and four newspapers!

And many of the extra items that could be recycled are also found outside the kitchen, with people being asked to increase their effort to recycle more things like aerosols, small glass bottles, and packaging from the bathroom and bedroom.

County Councillor Atkinson and waste management officer, Janine Lund, showing how much more the average household in Lancashire could recycle each week.

'Missing mountain'

Council chiefs say it could result in another 50,000 tonnes of recycling a year, adding to the 100,000 tonnes currently collected at the doorstep, and 50,000 tonnes collected at household waste recycling centres.

It could also save up to £4m a year which could be spent on other vital public services.

The campaign, launched during Recycle Week (September 24 to 30), is being led on social media using a short animation to illustrate how much more we could recycle. People can see it at www.lancashire.gov.uk/waste.

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, deputy leader of Lancashire County Council with responsibility for waste, said: "Most people are pretty good at recycling and it's just part of our normal routine, but there's still a significant proportion of things which could be recycled which are being wasted and going straight to landfill because they've been put in the wrong bin.

"Our new campaign seeks to highlight the size of that missing mountain of recycling and the potential we all have to make a significant difference by making a little extra effort.

"Many of us are in the habit of recycling in the kitchen as that's where we have room for separate recycling bins, but most are still missing some recyclable items. And nearly four in 10 people say they don't always recycle bathroom items.

"So much from elsewhere in the house can be recycled - plastic shower gel and shampoo bottles, spray cleaner and bleach bottles, aerosol cans, and cardboard toothpaste boxes and toilet roll tubes. If more people recycled these things it could really make a difference and take Lancashire's recycling rates to the next level."

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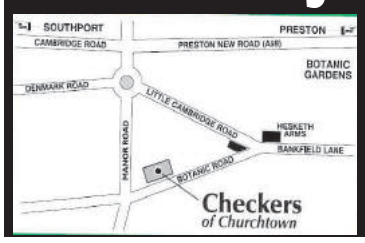

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Bee society buzzing after moving colony of 60,000 in 200-mile rescue operation!

Burscough-based conservation group answer sos after massive nest found in Cambridge hospital roof

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Abigail (left) with Andy and Gail of the Tree Bee Society removed a colony of 60,000 bees from a hospital in Cambridge.

DIRECTORS of a West Lancs bee conservation group are buzzing after completing their latest 'rescue operation' - 200 miles away!

When a colony of 60,000 bees was discovered in porch roof panels of a building in the grounds of Fulbourn Hospital in Cambridge, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust turned to the Burscough-based Tree Bee Society for help.

The award winning, not-for-profit organisation specialises in conserving honey and bumble bees and director Abigail Reade and two fellow directors made the four-and-a-half-hour journey to undertake the tricky task.

With the bees clearly not happy about their enforced relocation, it took more than 12 hours to remove them and place them in a special container to be brought back to Bursocugh.

And despite being dressed head-to-toe in protective clothing the intrepid trio were subjected to several painful stings for their efforts.

Abigail said: "It was a surprise for the hospital staff to find they were working so close to such a large colony of bees entering the roof space of the porch but when we removed a couple of the panels there they all were.

"We estimate when we see a colony of this size that it contains between 50,000 and 60,000 bees and this was certainly on the larger size. They had probably lived there for a number of years, there was honey everywhere.

"It took some time to move them to a special bee hive, about three foot square, that we carry with us, but that is usual for this kind of work.

"There was one queen bee at the centre of the colony and although we didn't see her, we knew we'd finally got her when the majority of the bees started to follow her into the hive.

"We did get stung a few times and although we are used to it, it's still very painful. Despite having full bee-keeping suits on, a few can still find their way through a gap.

"We always aim to get every bee, we never leave any behind. When we were done we closed the hive and brought them back to our base in Burscough where they can live very happily in our field."

Garry Locke, estates manager at the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation, added: "We were amazed when we saw how many bees were in the loft space of the porch. We thought there might be a few because staff had reported seeing them flying in and out, but to see the size of the colony was incredible.

"We knew we wanted to move them safely and after consulting with colleagues who look after the maintenance of our buildings we decided to call in the Tree Bee Society. To find out there were 60,000 there and to see all the honey, was amazing."

A video of the operation can be viewed on the society's Facebook page. For more information visit www.treebee.org.uk.

'Unconfirmed sightings' of missing Edge Hill student are revealed

by **Danielle Thompson**

OFFICERS searching for missing Adam Seaton have revealed details of 'unconfirmed sightings' of him around the time he went missing, more than six weeks ago.

Police are making a fresh appeal for people to come forward with information almost seven weeks after the Edge Hill University geography student went missing from his home address in Melrose Avenue in Marshside.

Together with colleagues from the Coastguard and Mersey Fire and Rescue Service, police have carried out extensive open land and open water searches in the Sefton area and CCTV, mobile phone and other enquiries have taken place.

When last seen Adam, 20, who is 6ft 2in tall, of slim build with brown hair and brown eyes, was wearing a burgundy tracksuit top, black or white T-shirt, blue jeans and burgundy Puma trainers.

It is thought that Adam may have driven his mum's red Ford Fiesta car to the RSPB car park on Marshside/Marine Drive during the afternoon or evening of Thursday, August 9.

A new photograph released of Adam Seaton

Since his disappearance, police have received unconfirmed sightings from different witnesses who said they believe they saw someone fitting Adam's description around the time of his disappearance.

One of the sightings was of Adam sitting on sand hills with a man close to the derelict sand factory, next to the RSPB car park in Marshside, in the day or so prior to him going missing. The second sighting was also with another male at the RSPB car park on the day he vanished.

Another witness believes that the red car Adam was driving was parked up in the RSPB car park next to a small black car containing two men, who are believed to be Polish and regular visitors to the car park.

Detective Inspector Jackie Guinness said: "I'd like to stress that these are all unconfirmed sightings of Adam but our enquiries remain ongoing and I would ask anyone who recognises themselves or believes they have seen or spoken to Adam, or anyone fitting his description, since August 9, to contact us.

Distressing

"I would also continue to appeal to anyone who may have dash-cam footage which captured Adam's red Ford Fiesta in or around the RSPB car park to come forward.

"It has been an extremely distressing time for Adam's family since his disappearance. They are very grateful to everyone who has helped in the search and publicised the appeals but ultimately they just want to see Adam home safe and well.

"I would ask anyone who can assist the investigation to contact us as a matter of urgency."

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New skills on offer at Chapel Gallery

WEST Lancs Council is keen to make members of the public aware of the wide variety of courses available at the Chapel Gallery.

Expert tuition and guidance is provided as part of a number of courses at the Enjoy Life! programme at the council-run gallery' in St Helens Road, Ormskirk.

Adult classes include French and Spanish, life drawing, painting for pleasure, and creative writing.

There is also a 'knit & natter' group and a jewellery-making group.

Health activity classes include Qi Gong, singing for health, and Hope Street. Qi Gong is a Chinese holistic system of co-ordinated body posture and movement, breathing and meditation; while Hope Street has been created to help break the stigma attached to poor mental health.

For children the gallery provides Little Explorers and French language classes.

For a full list of classes, times, cost and how to book visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/chapelgallery.

Police supplied with acid attack response kits

Report by **Henry James**

POLICE officers in Lancashire responding to victims of corrosive substance attacks and other incidents involving hazardous chemicals, are being supplied with special acid attack medical to enable them to respond quickly to incidents.

The initiative began with West Midlands Police, who worked with an emergency medical supply specialists to put together the equipment which, it's hoped will help officers to minimise injury to members of the public in the event of an attack.

The kits, which have been sent to all police forces across England and Wales, are the first of their kind containing not just water but Personal Protective Equipment for the emergency services. They were deployed operationally for the first time at Prince Harry's wedding in May by West Midlands Police providing tactical and logistical support to Thames Valley Police.

The 'Parabag' contains six 500ml bottles of water, two pairs of chemical gloves, two face masks, two pairs of safety goggles and a special 'bottleshower' with a spray adaptor to shower water over a victim's skin, believed to be a more effective way of diluting a corrosive liquid and delivering a continuous flow of water than simply tipping straight from a bottle.

Sergeant Scott Howard, of West Midlands Police, demonstrates how water is effectively showered onto a wounded person after an attack.

The kitbags also feature the National 'Remove' campaign message highlighting the need to remove victims from the contaminated environment, remove outer clothing and directions on how to remove the contaminant from skin by rinsing continuously with water.

Sergeant Scott Howard from West Midlands Police said: "We want to be prepared to respond effectively if we are called upon to reduce injury to the public.

Flexible

"Other forces have created in-house solutions to an acid attack for some months which includes large bottles of water.

"Following evaluation we decided a flexible, agile and scalable kit was more suited to our needs, particularly when deployed by specialist teams where space is at a premium in vehicles.

"Officers will likely need to have a hand free to deal with whatever is happening in such a situation."

A total of 200 kits have now been deployed to police forces across the UK.

Artisan market set for Wharf return

AN artisan market is set to return to the Burscough Wharf.

Organisers say the market's initial appearance at the wharf in Smithy Walk proved popular despite adverse weather and it will return for two more dates in both October and November.

Mandy Garcia, events organiser with Artisan Network NW, says the market offers independent businesses an opportunity to showcase high-quality art, unique handmade crafts and sell produce such as locally-produced cheese, jams, confectionery, savouries and chutneys.

The next markets will take place between 9am and 4pm on Saturdays October 6 and 20 and November 3 and 17. The event is dog-friendly and free parking is available

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Ormskirk Golf Club duo hold off rivals to clinch prestigious pro-am trophy

ORMKSKIRK golf club pair Alison Gray and Pat Johnson are celebrating after winning the prestigious WPGA Lombard Trophy pro-am tournament at Pestana Vila Sol, Portugal.

And it was third time lucky for Alison - who finished third in 2016 and fourth last year - as they completed the final hole on the Algarve resort's Prime course without mishap to win the tournament.

But there was nothing lucky about the victory in the £7,800 event which is supported by Pestana Hotels and Coca Cola.

Successive sub-par rounds for a four-under-par total of 140 saw Alison and Pat, a recent convert to golf from hockey with a handicap of 27, repel the challenge of Leeds Golf Centre and Beau Desert Golf Club.

The Ormskirk ladies began the second round a shot clear of the Leeds pair, PGA pro Eleanor Robinson and Marise Richford, and ended it two ahead of the runners-up.

Pat Johnson and Alison Gray with the coveted trophy. Photo courtesy of Tony Marshall, Getty Images.

The latter's pairing of 1997 US Women's Open champion and Solheim Cup player and captain, Alison Nicholas, and her amateur partner, Pam Bailey, posted the round of the tournament. But their five-under-par 67 was not sufficient to repair the damage done by their opening three-over-par round of 75.

Alison and Pat meanwhile, adopted a Faldo-esque approach and signed off with nine successive pars.

Support

Playing a part in those solid pars were some new Taylor-Made irons courtesy of a small wager on fellow PGA pro and Staysure Senior Tour winner David Shacklady and Alison's long-serving caddy, friend and Ormskirk member, Yvonne Brown.

Alison said: "David got me started in golf when I was 15. I was cack-handed and held the club the wrong way. He sorted that out and helped me with my game.

"I saw that he came fifth in the Staysure PGA Seniors Championship at the London Club last month and was 75 to 1 to win the next event, the Russian Open. I don't usually bet but I put a fiver on him and he won – that paid for the clubs!

"As for Yvonne, we play about three times a week at Ormskirk and she's caddied for me for four years. She knows my game inside out and I couldn't have done this without her.

"It's great for ladies golf to be here competing alongside the men."

Pat, for her part, did not let her pro down but was indebted to the support she received from team Ormskirk.

"I only took up the game four years ago," she said. "It's been a rapid progression in a way and it's all a bit surreal.

"I feel so lucky to have been here. Ali was so supportive, as was Yvonne, and my husband who caddied for me and kept me calm. I've had a lovely time."

Woman in bus attack identified

LANCASHIRE Police say a woman has been identified following an appeal for information in the Champion after a mother and daughter were assaulted and verbally abused on a bus travelling through Banks.

Police launched the belated appeal after the incident which happened on July 12 at around 7.10pm when a woman, 56 and her daughter, 39, were on the X2 Stagecoach bus from Southport to Preston.

When it stopped near to the New Fleetwood Pub in Banks, they were confronted by a man and a woman under the influence of alcohol, after complaining about the conduct of a group of people on the bus.

The police are still looking for this man.

The pair subjected the woman and her daughter to verbal abuse with the mother being dragged off the bus by her hair by the female offender, who also dragged the daughter into a bush.

The man punched the mother in the face. He has not yet been identified but is described as white, around 5ft 6ins, of stocky build with short brown and greying hair and facial stubble. He was wearing a navy-blue shirt.

Police officers confirmed that no arrests have been made.

Anyone who recognise the man is asked to contact the police at lancashire.police.uk/reportonline or call 01772 412987 or 101.

Burscough FC is re-launched as non-profit making 'community interest company'

Report by **Kenny Parker**

BURSCOUGH FC is inviting supporters and interested parties to help shape the club's future as it re-launches itself as a community interest company (CIC).

A statement from chairman Mike Swift on the club's website says that the incorporation of Burscough Recreation & Football Club CIC is a further step in the club's development.

CICs exist to benefit the community rather than private shareholders and are managed by directors to a set of rules and with statutory obligations.

Last year the club's application for a new stadium was approved and this year the land was bought on which it will be situated, next to the current ground.

Most recently an application has been made to West Lancashire Council by Torus Homes to build 52 houses on the site of the current ground at Victoria Park.

Burscough Parish Council chairman Brian Bailey says he is sceptical about the club's motives for launching as a CIC.

He said: "I do not believe this is a genuine attempt to make any commitment to the community. It's just a ruse.

"For 12 years as a councillor I have lived with this - things have changed, goal posts have moved."

"With what happened to Skelmersdale United anybody has to have suspicions as to what the true motives any action that the football club takes or any actions that the directors take."

Skelmersdale United FC lost its home ground last year following what was said to be a a breach of contract regarding its lease of its ground. The club's ground was owned by Chequer Properties which owns Burscough FC's ground.

Cll. Bailey said he would meet with the parish council before any decision was made as to whether to engage with the club's invitation.

Documents at Companies House show the company was incorporated on Friday, September 7 and its directors are Martin Gilchrist and Dave Sutton.

Mike Swift added in his statement: "There are no shareholders to whom any dividend could fall.

"The new body has not traded, so this is a clean sheet. In the future it will acquire and hold assets, and form commercial and strategic relationships. CIC directors will also be responsible for succession."

The chairman said he was inviting interested supporters and organisations to contact him informally "as we shape the CIC journey."

The statement adds: "Our invitation is also open to community groups, charities, existing sports and recreational clubs in and around Burscough."

In response to Cllr Bailey's comment, Mike Swift added: ""I look forward to meeting Councillor Bailey as we carefully take the next steps in the football club's heritage and largely proud history."

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Police commissioner welcomes new deputy

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, has confirmed that following an open selection process, Chris Webb has been chosen to take up the role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

Mr Webb went before the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel for a confirmation hearing on Wednesday, September 19.

He was selected as the preferred candidate for the part-time position, following a transparent recruitment process that was independently observed by the secretary to the police and crime panel

Chris, who lives in Blackpool, is currently office manager for North West MEP, Wajid Khan and prospective Labour Parliamentary candidate for Blackpool North and Cleveleys.

Clive Grunshaw said: "The calibre of applicants was high but Chris stood out from the rest as having the right skills and abilities to do the job, as well as sharing my own principles and values and his passion and commitment to do the best for the people of Lancashire.

Chris Webb, Lancashire's new Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

"This is an important role and I am looking forward to Chris joining me at a time of continuing change as Lancashire Constabulary evolves to meet the new challenges it faces, helping me deliver the priorities in my Police and Crime Plan and supporting my role as the public's voice in policing.

"Chris is the right person to support the growing portfolio of work which my role as police and crime commissioner is responsible for and strengthens my ability to oversee the work of the constabulary and commissioned services, ensuring value for money and holding the Chief Constable to account at a time of rising demand and pressures on the police service."

Thrilled

Commenting on his appointment, Chris said: "I am thrilled to have been selected as the commissioner's preferred candidate for the role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

"Having been born and bred in the county, I am excited to support the commissioner in delivering his priorities in his Police and Crime Plan, listening to the public and working with the constabulary to deliver the highest standard of service that the people of Lancashire deserve."

The Lancashire Police and Crime Panel are required to hold a confirmation hearing for this appointment.

They do not have the power to veto the appointment but will provide a public report with their recommendation.

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CQC report rates hospital as 'Requires Improvement' for second time running

'We're working hard to address the issues' say trust bosses

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

SOUTHPORT and Formby District General Hospital has been rated by CQC inspectors as 'Requires Improvement' for the second time running.

The latest report by the Care Quality Commission, the independent regulator for health and social care in England, was published last week and it revealed the commission's findings from an inspection which took place earlier this year on March 8.

Although the overall rating for the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust site was 'Requires Improvement', the rating for medical care - which includes care for older people - was assessed as 'Inadequate'.

The CQC inspected five key areas for being 'Safe; Effective, Caring, Responsive; and Well Led.

They rated it 'Good' in one category (caring); 'Requires Improvement' in three categories (safe, effective and responsive) and 'Inadequate' in another (well-led) which gave an overall rating of 'Requires improvement'. A previous report in November 2017 also gave the hospital a 'Requires Improvement' rating.

Invested

The CQC also inspected and rated specific services. Intensive/critical care; end of life care; and outpatients and diagnostic imaging was rated Good; the Surgery and Spinal Injuries Centre was rated as Requires Improvement and Medical care (including older people's care) was rated as Inadequate.

A spokesperson for the Trust responded, stating that they have invested £1.25million this year at the hospital and are working 'hand in hand' with the CQC to make the 'necessary improvements'.

They said: "The CQC has published an update to the findings of its inspection of November 2017.

Southport Hospital.

The update is based on an unannounced inspection of urgent and emergency services in March. The Trust's CQC rating is unchanged.

"In response, we have been working hand in hand with the CQC to make the necessary improvements. We have invested £1.25m this year to fund the following.

"The extension and refurbishment to A&E. The final phase began this month on a bigger reception and waiting area, and a much-needed additional clinical assessment space to support the timely handover of patients arriving by ambulance

"A clinical decision unit opened in March, providing eight further beds in A&E

"A discharge and transfer lounge opened in July. The £136,000 unit provides a more comfortable experience for patients waiting to go home and helps free up ward beds for newly-admitted patients

"The trust is also investing in staff. More than £300,000 will be used to expand the critical care outreach team to a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week operation. The trust is also recruiting three further orthopaedic consultants, two more consultant radiologists and five additional senior doctors."

Silas Nicholls, chief executive, added: "When I joined the trust in April, I said I wanted the hospital where I live to be one that I can be proud of. We are working hard to address the issues rightly raised by the CQC, so that the hospital can be a place that the whole community – staff and patients – can be proud of. I want to thank and pay tribute to staff across the trust whose continued hard work and dedication underpins everything we do, and is crucial in helping us along this road to recovery."

Boot sale and market fundraiser in aid of community centre redevelopment scheme

HESKETH Bank Community Centre will be hosting a car boot sale and artisan market on Sunday, October 14 between 10am and 3pm.

Sue Ellis, who is organising the event, said: "The centre is raising funds for an ambitious plan to redevelop the site.

" So far our events and activities, including comedy and race nights and hosting the Mikron Theatre, have raised nearly £4,000 but we have a very long way to go, so we hope that the local residents will continue to support our fundraising efforts with this latest event."

Places are £8 for cars and £10 for indoor tables - and they're are being snapped up quickly.

For more information or to book contact Sue Ellis by email at sue.ellis95@gmail.com or by ringing 07956 986 546.

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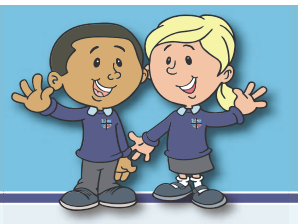

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Talented teen bows out of X Factor with praise from star-maker Cowell!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Elliss Halton (centre) pictured with family and friends who supported her for her X Factor bid.

A TEENAGER from Burscough who was so shy as a youngster that she would only sing from behind a door proved how far she has come when she took to the stage in front of the demanding X Factor judges and an audience of 4,000!

And although she failed to make it to the latter stages of the TV talent contest - despite winning four 'yeses' - 17-year-old Elliss Halton was praised for her efforts by Simon Cowell.

The former Burscough Village Primary School pupil's renditions of Adele's *One and Only* and Heather Small's *Proud* helped her to make it through the earlier audition stages but she didn't make it to the six-chair challenge.

Crying

Despite that Cowell said she should be proud of her efforts - and emotional mum, Clare certainly was!

She said: "Elliss has always had a problem with confidence and to stand on that stage in front of 4,000 people it was such a big thing for her,

"When she came off the stage and shed a tear I was crying too - it was like my little girl again running into my arms.

"At primary school she was so shy she used to sing from behind the door with her teacher holding the microphone!"

Luckily her music teacher recognised her talent and encouraged her and when she went on to Burscough Priory Science College she had other opportunities to sing and also joined CD Music in Rufford, which Clare says helped her to grow in confidence.

While there she won Southport's Got Talent in 2015 and the opportunity to perform at the resort's Christmas lights switch-on event.

Now the Southport College student performs at pubs and clubs in the area as part of duo Clockwise and hopes to go on to study performing arts at Edge Hill University.

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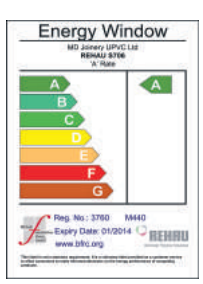

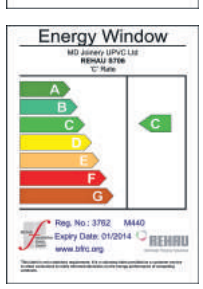

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Families could help shape major study aiming for epilepsy breakthrough

Edge Hill professor leading panel says parents, carers and children with experience of condition are vital to project

FAMILIES of children with epilepsy are being asked to help shape a major study funded by the National Institute of Health Research that could provide a breakthrough in treatment for the condition.

Professors at Edge Hill University are looking for parents of children with rolandic epilepsy - the most common form of childhood epilepsy - to join their patient and public involvement advisory panel for the study.

CASTLE (Changing Agendas on Sleep, Treatment and Learning in Epilepsy) is a six-year study, led by Kings College London, which includes a clinical trial measuring the effectiveness of two different epilepsy drugs in terms of children's sleep, alertness and ability to learn.

Testing an older, commonly prescribed drug against a newer prescription drug and a placebo, the study hopes to provide a breakthrough in drug choice and treatment for the condition.

Professor Lucy Bray

Professor Lucy Bray, Edge Hill's professor of child health literacy who is leading the advisory panel work for CASTLE, said: "Finding parents, carers, children, with experience, past or present of rolandic epilepsy is absolutely vital to this project.

"They're the ones who will have had to make decisions first-hand about treatment. Some parents report that they can find it difficult to balance controlling seizures against their child's alertness and ability to learn.

"That's why this whole programme and the clinical trial within it is so important and could help so many families faced with diagnosis in the future."

She added: "We want to make sure everything we do in CASTLE is family focused and this is an opportunity for families across the North of England to join our panel and have their say. Volunteers don't need any special skills; we are just keen to hear their opinions.

"There's no huge time commitment, we can meet face to face or chat over the phone or Skype and in return we can offer a goodwill payment.

"We're hoping there will be some exciting and influential results from across the study so anyone involved could play a major role in the future of epilepsy treatment."

If you are interested in joining the panel or would like more information contact Lucy Bray on brayl@edgehill.ac.uk @Lucy-Bray9 or 07864 959184.

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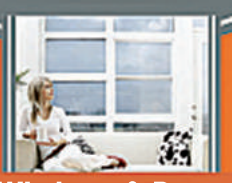

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Compensation extended for rail users hit by timetable chaos

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Regular passengers affected by disruption on Northern Rail earlier in the year will able to claim compensation subject to certain conditions.

TRANSPORT for the North has brokered an agreement with Northern Rail to compensate the worst-affected regular rail travellers who suffered from the disruption to their journeys in the summer.

This latest development extends the compensation offer beyond the existing season-ticket holder scheme launched in July.

It allows regular travellers who are not season ticket holders to claim compensation for the disruption and inconvenience they suffered.

This is the first scheme of its kind in the UK to be introduced and to be open for claims.

Transport for the North is formed of 19 local and combined authorities and business leaders with the purpose of speaking as one voice on the region's infrastructure needs.

Package

Following the agreement Northern has launched a web page, www.northernrailway.co.uk/compensation, explaining how the scheme will work and how those entitled to compensation can make their claims.

This is part of the overall compensation package that was agreed between Transport for the North and the Department for Transport in the summer.

It is anticipated that the regular travellers scheme will be ready to accept compensation claims from Tuesday, October 9 and will remain open for a period of eight weeks.

The existing claim window for season ticket holders will be extended to match the same end date.

In terms of eligibility, the same qualifying routes and time periods being used for season ticket holders will be applicable.

Full details of these are on the web page but, in summary they are:

- For Level 1 routes (the worst affected routes where disruption took place before and after the May timetable change), customers will need to evidence at least 12 days travel in a 28-day window.
- For Level 2 routes (other affected routes where disruption took place) evidence of at least three days' travel in a seven-day window.

Eligible journeys will need to have been made on the same route

Customers are eligible to claim for either season ticket or regular traveller compensation, not both, and are eligible to claim for either Level 1 or Level 2 but not both.

Further details on eligibility and how claims will be validated will be on the Northern website.

Union blames Northern for breakdown in talks to end long-running dispute over guards on trains

RAIL Union RMT has blamed Northern Rail for the collapse of talks through the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) which had been set up try to resolve the long-running dispute over the introduction of driver controlled operated trains across Northern's network.

Union chiefs said they were willing "to compromise and negotiate, and respect the core issues at the heart of the dispute, namely the security, safety and accessibility of the travelling public." However they criticised Northern for what they described as their "intransigent attitude."

At the end of last month, Merseyrail and the RMT agreed in principle to resolve a similar dispute and allow a second member of staff on the new trains.

A spokesperson for ACAS commented: "Following a second day of talks, Arriva Northern Rail and RMT were unable to make any progress in resolving their dispute. There are no further meetings planned at the present time."

RMT General Secretary, Mick Cash said: "RMT is angry and frustrated that a genuine attempt to broker a solution to the Arriva Rail North dispute has once again been collapsed by the intransigence of the company.

"ARN continue to refuse to match the best practice in the industry on the guard guarantee.

"Whilst we are both disappointed and concerned that such discussions have ended without agreement or a constructive way forward, RMT will not be deterred in its efforts and will continue to campaign to ensure passengers using Arriva Rail North train services are afforded the respect they deserve and are provided with a continued and guaranteed safe, secure and accessible railway."

Northern has been contacted for comment.

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Residents' views wanted on CCG's varicose veins policy

RESIDENTS are being encouraged to provide feedback on NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group's draft policy on varicose veins as part of a review of clinical policies across the region

Members of the public are therefore invited to read the proposed draft policy and then provide their comments on a feedback survey.

Both the policy and the survey are available on the CCG website at www.westlancashireccg.nhs.uk. They can be posted out to residents who do not have access to a computer by calling the CCG on 01695 588 203.

Comments should be submitted by Friday, October 19.

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All aboard! Date set for public preview of new Merseyrail trains

Report by **Henry James**

MEMBERS of the public will get an opportunity to experience the new trains coming to the Merseyrail network at a special viewing later this year.

A realistic, full-scale mock-up of one of the train carriages will be on public view in Liverpool city centre in Novmber.

The detailed and lifelike replica train is fully interactive, with working doors and an automatic sliding step which will bridge the gap between the train and platform edge, making the network more accessible to all passengers, including wheelchair-users.

Visitors will be able to walk along the open and spacious aisles, try the new wider seats and even take a look at the state-of-the-art technology inside the driver's cab.

Staff will be on hand to talk through the features of the new trains, designed and built by Swiss company Stadler. Chosen with the input and guidance of Liverpool City Region residents and rail network users, these include phone charging points and bike racks.

The mock-up trains will be on display at Liverpool Lime Street from Monday, November 5 to Sunday, November 18 from 7am to 6.30pm. More information can be found at the following link: merseytravel.gov.uk/newtrains

A full-size replica of the new Merseyrail trains will be on public display at Lime Street later this year.

Liverpool City Region Metro Mayor, Steve Rotheram, said: "It is fantastic news that our train mock-up will be heading to Lime Street in November. Before the new trains were designed and ordered, we asked the public what features they would like to see on them. We listened – and because of this – by 2020 we will see the most sophisticated trains in the country arrive on our network.

Exciting

"They will be more accessible, equipped with 21st century necessities such as wi-fi and air conditioning, and most importantly they will give our economy an annual boost worth tens of millions of pounds.

"This is an exciting opportunity for people to have a sneak peek at our new trains before they arrive and I would encourage anyone who is a regular train user - and those who aren't - to go and have a look while they have the chance."

Councillor Liam Robinson, transport portfolio holder for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, said: "As the Combined Authority and Merseytravel will be buying the new trains directly, they're going to be owned by the people of the Liverpool City Region, so it's brilliant to be able to invite everyone along to see and experience what will be their new trains.

"And the term 'mock-up' really doesn't do the carriage justice - it's so realistic you'll be expecting it to start moving off the moment you get on board."

Andy Heath, managing director of Merseyrail, said: "The mock-up is a very realistic replica of what passengers can expect from the new state-of-the-art trains.

"I would encourage the public and all of our passengers to visit so they can really appreciate the sense of space, new features and modern look and feel that we can all look forward to from 2020."

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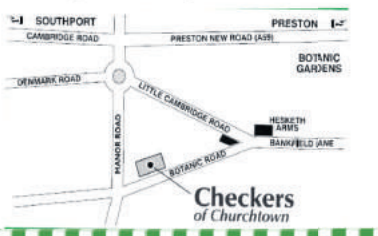

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Surely sending five cars to a council meeting where 'no offences were reported' was a complete waste of police time and resources

I WRITE in relation to the article in the Champion (September 19) headed 'Parties blame each other after ugly scenes at cabinet meeting.' I would like to raise two particular issues.

Now I have viewed video recording of the meeting on two websites. The article reads 'Councillor Ian Moran was spat at' but then goes on to say a spokesperson for Lancashire Constabulary said officers attended and no offences were reported.

I did not witness any spitting on the recording of the meeting. I am a retired police officer with 30 years' experience; unless the law has been changed since my retirement then I am certain that spitting at a person constitutes an assault but no offences were reported to the police.

To me this begs the question were the police summoned to the meeting under false pretences or are these claims of spitting headline-seeking?

In any event having viewed the recording, read the media reporting of the meeting and hearing that five police vehicles attended at the location I can say without doubt that this was a waste of police time and resources at a time when our local constabulary continue to suffer major cutbacks under the current Conservative Government.

I would be very interested to read the transcript of, or listen to, the call made to Lancashire Constabulary requesting police attendance at the cabinet meeting as it would appear, on the face of it, that the police have been misled by the call maker at the very least.

Some two weeks ago between 8 and 9.30pm one evening a group of teenagers were running amok, throwing fireworks around the Nursery Avenue, Pendle Drive and Tower Hill area of Ormskirk, just a few hundred yards away from the council offices in Derby Street.

A number of calls were made to the police complaining about the noise and unsociable actions of the group that was not only disturbing residents but putting some in fear of their safety. Now I do know the Public Order Act of 1986 has not been repealed. Section 5 of the act clearly states that behaviour which causes 'harassment, alarm or distress' to others constitutes a criminal offence. Did the residents of the Greetby Hill area receive a response from the police sending five police cars to the locality on that evening? No they didn't.

Putting this into context, in my opinion, the police resources that evening could have been better utilised elsewhere as opposed to being called to the cabinet meeting under false pretences when, and I make no apologies for quoting the police again, 'no offences were reported.'

Gordon Johnson,
Nursery Avenue, Ormskirk.

Authorities don't care about the state of footpaths

I WRITE in response to a couple of letters in your paper (Champion, September 19).

Firstly, in reply to Mr Grogan's letter with regard to the state of footpaths in Tanhouse, I fully support you on this matter, but it's not only Tanhouse where the footpaths are in decline, it is all over Skelmersdale.

I worked in the voluntary sector and in my role as a housing advisor to the people of West Lancashire I had a lot of contact (and arguments) with both the borough council and county council on issues like this and in 99.9% of the cases I dealt with nothing was done and all I got was lie after lie.

There are many disabled people not only in Skelmersdale but throughout West Lancashire and for all the revenue they receive work still remains incomplete.

My suggestion is, if you fall over one of these flags, take the council to court. Maybe if it happens to enough people work will finally get done.

Secondly, to concerned public servant with regards to County Road, if you are as concerned as you say, give this paper as much evidence as you can, because the only way to get this council and the county council off their behinds to do something is to embarrass them into it.

Paul Roughley, by email.

PICTURE of the week

A last splash of sunshine colour in the fields as summer draws to a close. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Action needed to tackle thoughtless pavement parkers

COULD someone please explain why we pay council tax but are unable to use the footpaths we pay for whilst council tax-exempt students appear to have exclusive use of them for free parking?

There is a noticeable lack of parking enforcement in Wigan Road, Ormskirk where it is most needed.

These selfish, ignorant students - yes it is students - are not just causing an inconvenience, they are endangering peoples' lives by forcing them to step into a very busy road.

There is a distinct lack of parking enforcement, primarily because this is not often an issue from 9am to 5pm. The greatest inconvenience and danger is from early evening through till not so early morning when there are no enforcement officers on duty.

The police could also take action as these vehicles are causing an obstruction but seem to turn a blind eye to it.

Will someone have to be killed or injured as a consequence of this selfish, thoughtless, ignorant behaviour?

S. R., by email, details supplied.

Drop us a line...

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Quality of life is more important than the council's grand plans for 'business status'

OVER the past two years our general rates have increased from £137 to £152 a month - £180 a year increase for a brown bin.

The council is the smallest in Lancashire with the most councillors along with their dreams of town centres, Tawd Vale clean-up, new heating and windows to council property and the latest ludicrous town plan for increased housing and business offices.

Skelmersdale as a town will never achieve any business status, because none is needed.

Can't we just be a local backwater village without a ponderous, inefficient, too large council?

Quality of life is most important.

Graham Walker, Up Holland.

Time to stamp out red light 'jumpers' at danger junction

I KEEP seeing letters etc. in the Champion about how bad County Road is regarding people driving through red lights.

I recently (September 14) captured on video a lorry travelling through red lights at the junction of Hayfield Road with no concern for anyone else.

There might not have been an accident at this time but if I hadn't have been turning I would definitely be dead by now. He was travelling way faster than he should have been.

I have contacted the police but I don't think anything will be done!

We need a campaign or something similar to do something about this junction at the Five Ways because this is now taking people's lives.

Sarah Vesty, by email.

Is it one rule for NHS workers and another for Virgin Care?

I ATTENDED Ormskirk Hospital Walk-In Centre today (Wednesday, September 19) to find a car parked up on the pedestrian entrance - yes, the pedestrian entrance, to the walk-in centre.

The vehicle is a hindrance should a fire break out in the hospital so I wondered why on earth is it there.

I then read an A4 piece of paper attached to a window. It read that the car was a Virgin Care vehicle.

And then it came to me that the car was avoiding car parking fees! This is an utter disgrace because all other NHS workers have to pay to park in Ormskirk Hospital so why is billionaire Richard Branson on a freebie?

Even more worrying, is privatisation sneaking its ugliness into Ormskirk Hospital?

Chris Carr, Skelmersdale.

Don't miss chance to have a say on future of NHS services

Public urged to get involved in national online consultation with deadline just days away

Report by **Henry James**

Dr Amanda Doyle.

MEMBERS of the public are being urged to have their say on the future of NHS services by taking part in an online survey before the closing date on Sunday, September 30.

Following the Government's announcement of an extra £20.5billion of funding for the NHS across the UK over the next five years, health chiefs want to plan how to use that money to improve services.

It is claimed the plan will set out ambitions for improvements over the next decade and will be shaped through a national consultation involving the public.

Dr Amanda Doyle, GP and chief officer for Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria, said: "This has been a year for reflecting on the success of the NHS and celebrating its 70th birthday year.

Changing

"But now we must look to the future and start thinking about the long-term plan.

"It's no secret the NHS has to develop to meet the needs of a changing population. As part of this process it is vital that all those who rely on and work in or alongside the NHS, have the opportunity to contribute their ideas and insights.

"You may choose to provide responses for every topic or just the ones that are important to you or the group you represent. Where possible we encourage organisations to collate responses from their members into a single submission."

Before completing the survey, people are encouraged to read a discussion guide which has been published, alongside an easy read version, which is intended to help stimulate ideas for suggested improvements to services across three key themes.

The themes are:

- **Giving people the right care at different stages of their lives.**
- **Improving health and care in particular areas.**
- **Putting the right things in place for NHS services to improve.**

To view all the documents and complete the feedback form or for more information on the consultation, visit https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/developing-the-long-term-plan-for-the-nhs/ before September 30.

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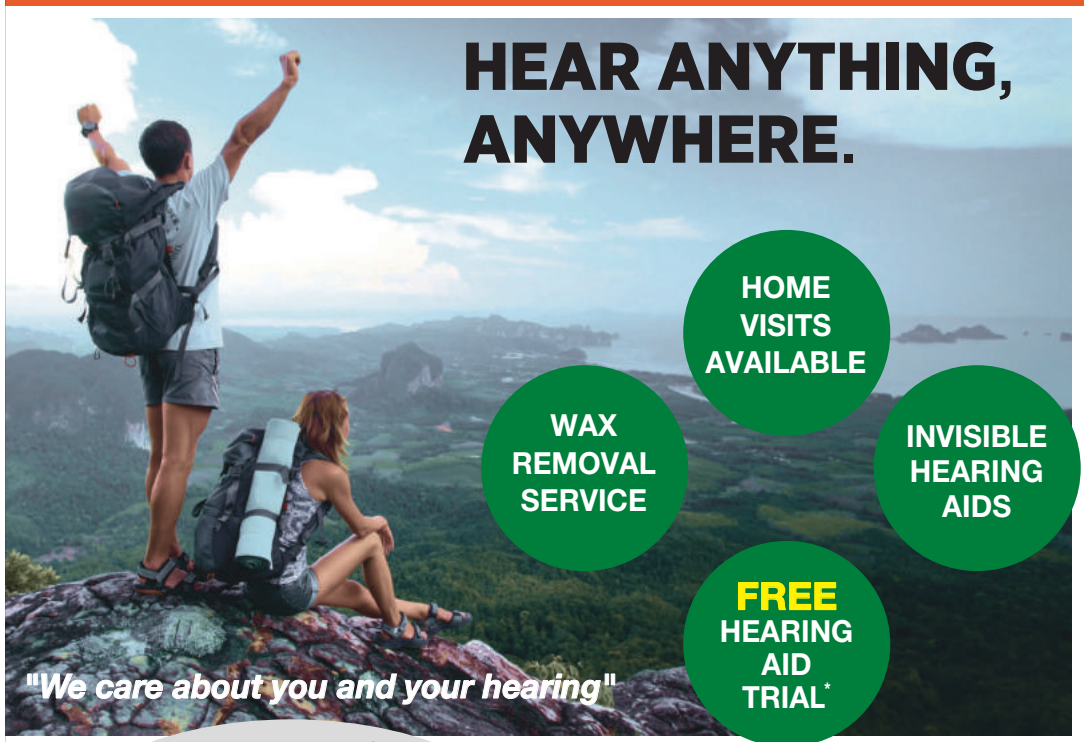

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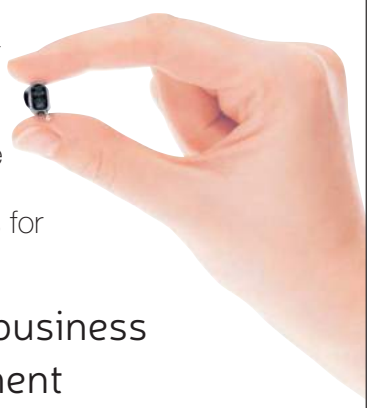

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Euro accolade for high flyer Rachel!

Former Ormskirk School pupil is a rising star of fast-growing, frisbee-throwing sport

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Rachel (right) in ultimate action. The frisbee-throwing sport is now officially recognised by UK Sports and the International Olympic Committee.

FORMER Ormskirk School pupil Rachel Turton is flying high after being voted European Young Player of the Year in ultimate - one of the world's fastest-growing sports.

Ultimate (formerly known as Ultitmate Frisbee) is a non-contact team sport played with the flying discs.

And the award - the result of a poll by Show Game, a news website for the sport - caps a fantastic year for 23-year-old Rachel, who represented Great Britain at the World Under-24 Ultimate Championships in Perth in January and recently returned from the USA where she helped her UK club to a top-half finish at the World Ultimate Club Championships.

Ultimate has recently gained fully recognised status by UK Sports and by the International Olympic Committee. Teams of seven score by getting a frisbee to the end of the field by throwing it between themselves and avoiding interception by opposing teams.

Originally from Aughton, Rachel got her first taste of the sport five years ago in the sixth form at Ormskirk School before becoming a serious competitor at Bangor University and quickly climbing the ranks to the GB team.

After university, where she studied sports science, she returned to the North West and now coaches ultimate professionally for teams at Liverpool and John Moores universities and is presently setting up a third at the city's Hope University. She also helps to manage local club, Merseyside Ultimate.

On winning the European Young Player of the Year award, she said: "In a year where I have played with and against so many incredible youth athletes from across Europe, it's an honour to be receiving this award.

"When I began playing Utimate, I watched highlight videos on repeat. It amazed me how players could move their bodies with the agility to not foul other players when going up for discs, and how they could make impossible-looking catches.

"I want to thank my parents for always encouraging me to do what I enjoy, and supporting me every step of the way, as well as the local Uultimate community for pushing me to be the best I can be."

Merseyside Ultimate is always looking to introduce the sport to new players. For more details email merseyside.ultimate@gmail.com.

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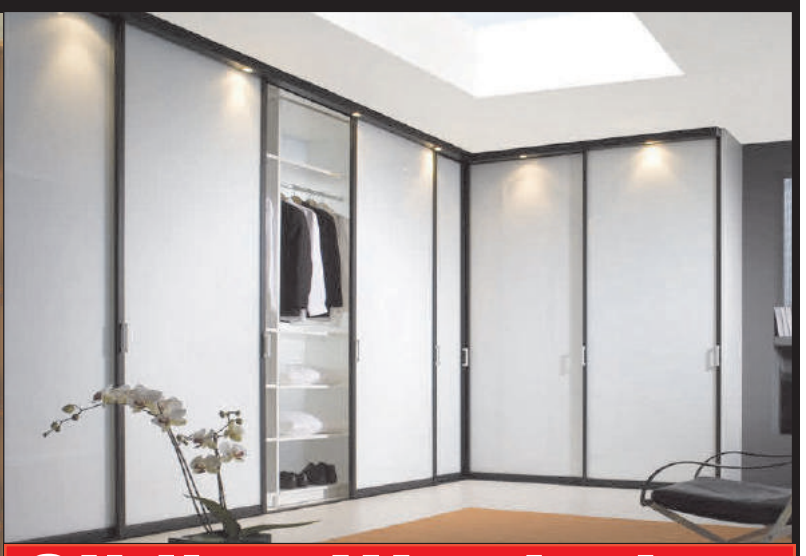

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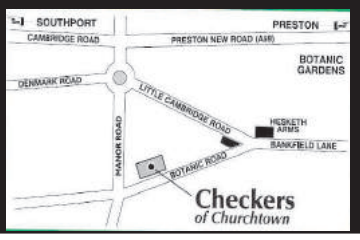

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Martin Mere awaits the arrival of the Geese

Over the next couple of weeks there will soon be the familiar sound of geese passing overhead – yes Autumn has officially begun, and WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre will soon be expecting the arrival of up to 30,000 Pink-footed geese after their journey from Iceland.

Reserve Manager, Louise Clewley, said: ""the geese need perfect weather conditions to make the journey from Iceland but we would expect up to 30,000+ geese using the reserve by late September and throughout October."

From Wednesday 3 October, Martin Mere will be open until 7pm every Wednesday and Saturday to allow visitors to watch the full spectacle of seeing the geese come into roost. Visitors need to have entered the centre before it closes at 6pm but the nature trail and hides will be open until 7pm. Normal admission charges apply.

On Saturday 6, 13, 20 & 27 October, experience the haunting sound and the thrill of an early morning hide visit with a warden. In past years at this time, the whooper swans have started to arrive back from Iceland and there will be thousands of pink-footed geese on the reserve – you can watch them as they wake and leave the roost. The event starts at 7am and includes a full English breakfast. The cost is £16 and you must book in advance online at wwt.org.uk/martinmere and visiting the 'What's on' page.

Seeing tens of thousands of geese "murmuring" and "honking" and ultimately taking off together is one of the greatest sights in nature and these events allow the community to take pride in the fact that the geese choose the North West to stop and rest.

WWT Martin Mere is open every day from 9.30am to 6pm and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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Church 'Bless Fest' to return after success of debut event

CHURCH officials have thanked all those who took part in its first Bless Fest event and have vowed to stage another next year.

The festival at Christ Church in Aughton featured a series of free events catering for all ages, beginning on Friday, September 7 at the church's Ministry Centre with a cream tea dance for the over-60s, joined by local residents from Hillcroft and Aughton Park care homes.

Following the dance, Bless Fest moved to Coronation Park, Ormskirk, where young people from local secondary schools took part in sports activities, tucked into a BBQ and listened to bands *Bright Light* and *SoulBox* from Manchester.

On Saturday, September 8 it was to the Ministry Centre for a fun pet show which was very well supported. Although predominantly a dog show, the organisers enjoyed the participation of two ducks called Jemima and Bolt and a guinea pig called Tato!

In the afternoon there was a children's talent contest featuring singers, dancers, a magician, footballers, a riotous recitation, and a joking juggler.

And to round off the fun, festival-goers were blessed with a curry before country band, *Ashton Lane* took to the stage. The band has previously topped the UK country chart with their single, *Breathe You In* and have toured the UK and Europe.

Curate, Rev. Sarah O'Donoghue said: "It was a fantastic weekend and we would like to thank everyone who joined us. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying time together.

"Highlights of the weekend can be found on our Facebook page Christ Church Aughton or our website www.christchurchaughton.org.uk.

"We are planning on another Bless Fest weekend next year so watch this space."

Pictured: Christ Church curate Sarah O' Donoghue (centre) and friends at Bless Fest in Coronation Park.

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The hen party's would-be Robin Hoods pictured with officials and coaches at the Burscough Archers club.

Archery club scores a bullseye with hen party!

THE Burscough Archers wouldn't be most people's idea of a venue for a hen party but it certainly hit the bullseye for one bride-to-be and her pals.

And the ladies enjoyed their visit so much that they are considering signing up for a beginners course at the club based at Asmall House Livery Stables in Ormskirk!

Kath Killen came up with the idea when she was looking for prenuptial celebrations for her cousin Becky Clark.

Media studies graduate Becky has a keen interest in the legends surrounding King Arthur and Robin Hood and has even written a screenplay about the latter.

So an archery theme seemed a natural choice for a 'hen do with a difference' and after a short safety introduction, the party had a great time as their enthusiasm more than made up for what they lacked in experience.

Transport plans for Giants' visit

COMMUTERS can expect changes to their travel when thousands of visitors arrive in Liverpool for a four-day Giants spectacle from Thursday, October 4 to Sunday, October 7.

Whether travelling by rail, bus, ferry or car, people are being advised to check for any alternatives to their usual services ahead of the event.

This is the final visit of the Giants to Liverpool and it is expected their arrival could be even more popular than previous years.

For the latest information about transport, commuters should check with the relevant transport operator in the run-up to and on their day of travel. Information will also be available online and via social media.

There will be extra staff from a variety of transport providers deployed at key locations during the four days to provide information and support people with their journeys.

On Merseyrail trains there will be a normal timetable on Thursday, October 4, but there will be changes to services on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

This will involve trains not stopping at every station, including Liverpool Central; and James Street and Lime Street lower level will be closed, as will Aughton Park and Town Green.

A special events timetable will run and passengers are encouraged to visit the Merseyrail website or pick up a leaflet from any staffed station.

Buses will be running but there will be diversions to routes due to road closures and services may be subject to delays - especially in and around Liverpool city centre.

Thrill-seekers wanted...

ADVENTUROUS West Lancs residents are being urged to sign up for the next series of Channel 4's *The Island with Bear Grylls*.

Casting researcher, Cleopatra Passley, said: "We are looking for men and women for the new series - and there's a prize!

"In previous series, volunteers were stripped of all the comforts of civilisation, and cast away on a remote deserted island. They filmed themselves, and shared their raw and exhilarating story of survival.

"We are now looking for men and women older than 18 - but no upper age limits! No experience of adventure or survival pursuits is necessary."

To register your interest, email theislandc4@shine.tv no later than Monday, October 8.

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Civic couple join in nursery's celebration

THE Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancs, Councillor Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubbert, joined staff and friends of the Portico Kindergarten in Aughton at a party to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

Also invited were residents from Aughton Park residential care home, along with past parents and children who have attended the nursery since it opened.

As well as the milestone anniversary, the occasion was also an opportunity to celebrate the Town Green Lane nursery's recent 'outstanding' rating by Ofsted and the "great relationship" it has with Aughton Town Green Primary School in whose grounds it is situated.

Party time as the borough's Mayor and Mayoress join in the celebrations to mark Portico Kindergarten's 10th anniversary.

Community centre to hold free help desk for villagers

THE trustees of the Hesketh Bank Community Centre are opening their doors on the last Saturday of every month to provide a help desk service for local residents.

The sessions will be staffed by a voluntary team of 'Community Crusaders' between 10 and 11am on the last Saturday of every month in the front hall of the centre in Station Road with the next one on Saturday, September 29.

The scheme is the idea of centre chairman, Steve Kirby. He said: "During the recent local election campaign I became aware that one of our residents' issues is dealing with officialdom when trying to access council services, especially for our older residents who may not be used to using computers.

"As a result I proposed a type of a help desk where we provide computer-savvy volunteers to assist.

"Anyone who wants to discuss a problem, but is unable to visit the community centre can call me on 07766 367550."

For more information call 07784 942127 or email info@heskethbank-communitycentre.org.uk.

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Graham Welsh with his winner's medals and badges.

Hot shot Graham!

69-year-old shooter shows the young guns how it's done!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A SHARPSHOOTING pensioner from West Lancs successfully defended his veterans' class title at this year's county clay pigeon shooting championships - and proved he could still teach the youngsters a thing or two by being crowned all round champion as well!

Graham Welsh has held various county titles since 1994, having taken up the sport in 1976.

He was also a member of the England team in 2001 and 2002 that won the they won the Olympic Skeet Home International Championships in 2001 and 2002.

And the 69-year-old from Aughton showed he was still the man to beat when he held on to his Veterans Class crown in the Lancashire All Round Championships and also outscored the senior, open and junior classes to win the event outright.

The four-discipline event involved competitors shooting 25 single barrel trap, 25 automatic trap, 25 skeet and 25 sporting clays.

With such a variation of targets calling for good all-round shooting skills, the difference between winning and losing can be a matter of just one missed target and Graham triumphed over his younger rivals.

He said: "The standard of clay shooting these days is very high and winning requires a lot of concentration and a steady nerve. Fortunately I managed to hold it all together on this occasion.

"It's a great feeling when one of the 'old men' of the sport shows the youngsters how it's done - very satisfying!"

And Graham celebrated another honour recently - when he was recognised by the NHS Blood and Transplant Service for his commitment to helping save lives after giving blood for the 100th time!

An evening with no TV is better than much of today's 'dumbed down' offerings

I'M not sure it's quite the correct phrase to use, but I think television has been 'dumbing down' for quite some time now.

Until our hard-working MPs took their long summer break from Westminster, there used to be a programme on BBC 2 whose name I cannot recall at the moment - it may have been *Today in Parliament*, but no matter - which I always recorded and watched when I had 45 minutes to spare.

It didn't often make me happy, in fact depending on which politicians they had in the studio it often made me cross. But it usually did give me pause for thought.

Unhappily though, the Beeb scrapped this programme at the end of the Parliamentary session, with the promise that a replacement would appear, new and better, when the 'Great and Good' returned refreshed from wherever.

Hoping for the best but fearing the worst, I looked forward to seeing and hearing what they had come up with. And naturally it was the second option that won the day.

I dutifully set the recorder to record the whole series and waited to see what would follow. Low and behold, what we have in *Politics Live* is more like one of those early morning 'talking heads on the sofa' programmes than one from which we are ever likely actually to learn anything.

The guests, up until today, were uniformly most definitely of the second rank. Frankly, I reckon that with a bit of luck you could gather an equally interesting panel at any busy bus stop. And their opinions would be perhaps the more interesting if only because they would at least give a cross section of what 'real' people think of various current affairs.

I think this 'dumbing down' really began a few years ago with the morning news programmes. There was a time, and not one before half the audience was born, when you had a genuine choice. If at 7.30am you happened to be the kind of person who wants laughter and fun, you could tune into Channel 3 and see smiley faces on ITVs morning offering.

Or, if like me, you don't particularly want a morning dose of enforced cheerfulness, you could watch BBC 1 and see soberly dressed men and women giving a measured sense of what was currently afoot.

No more. Now you are treated like a hospital patient who needs cheering up, like it or not. That approach has its benefits in that when there is a particularly tragic news item, its importance is underlined by the sombre expressions on the otherwise relentlessly cheerful visages.

On the other side of the coin though, the mainstream stations seem to have lost the ability to a large extent to make me laugh in the evenings. Sure, usually after the watershed, you get so-called stand-up comedians who seem to think that shouting and swearing constitute humour, but where are gems like *Fawlty Towers*, *To The Manor Born* or *One Foot in the Grave*?

Well, they are of course still available on Freeview channels - which is just as well or I would quite often have nothing at all I wanted to view of an evening.

In fact, I proved this to myself while on holiday on the Broads where TV reception can vary enormously and sometimes I am lucky if I can get decent reception on BBC1 and ITV and channels like Drama and Yesterday are unavailable no matter what contortions I go through with the aerial.

It's fortunate therefore that I don't mind at all sitting in peace for an evening, with nothing to hear but the occasional animal or bird noise and sometimes a duck landing on my roof!

Trust's Heritage Open Day is a hit with visitors

AN estimated 200 visitors enjoyed a Heritage Open Day hosted by the Lathom Park Trust at the Hall Lane Scout hut.

The event followed the second War Horse Walk tracing the route taken by horses being prepared to serve in the First World War from Ormskirk railway station to the Lathom Remount Depot.

Trustees and friends got into the spirit of the day by dressing up in period costume and trust chairman, Paul Kenyon gave two talks on the history of Lathom Park which secretary Dot Hawkes said were well received and appreciated by visitors.

Getting into the spirit of the heritage day are Kathryn Macdonald of Ormskirk & District Family History Society); Robert Travis, Lathom archaeologist; trust secretary, Dot Hawkes; and trustee, Pam Nanson.

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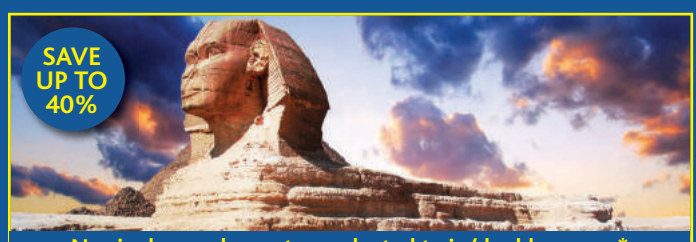

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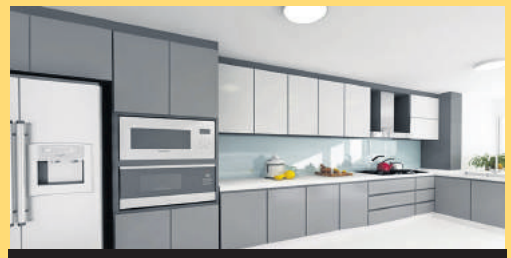

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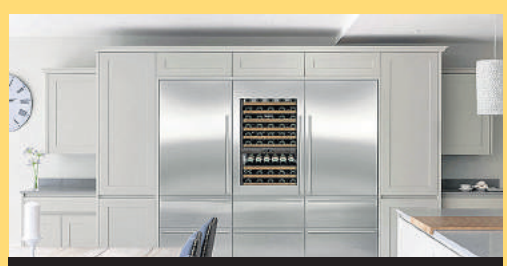

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Hospital set for annual Older Person's Day

SOUTHPORT Hospital is holding its annual Older People's Day on Wednesday, October 3 from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

The event will be held in the gym in the North West Regional Spinal Injuries Centre with free tea, coffee and biscuits provided for all.

This is an opportunity for residents in Sefton and West Lancs to find out how local services can support you, seek advice from experts, gather relevant information and make useful contacts.

Meg Langley, head of Older People's Care at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, said: "We serve a community here which is older than the national average. Because of this, we are working hard to make sure our services are designed to support our patients and to ensure that people are aware of and able to access beneficial support.

Visitors to the Older People's Day will be able to see the many support services available and seek advice from experts.

Guidance

"We aim to help people to live well at home. Our Older People's Day should provide help and guidance to make that happen for as many local people as possible.

"Hopefully, lots of people come along and manage to take home something useful, and have an enjoyable few hours meeting the teams here!"

On the day, visitors can expect to meet more than 40 local services for Sefton, Formby and West Lancashire. These include hospital-based teams and services, Macmillan, Home Instead, Wiltshire Farmfoods, Alzheimer's Society, Age UK, befriending schemes, ambulance services, fire safety, Queens Court Hospice, Healthwatch, Foodbank, lunch and leisure clubs, sexual health, active lifestyles, a variety of care and support providers, and community services.

To find out more, contact Meg Langley on 01704 704933 or email megan.langley@nhs.net.

Literary events in store at Parbold library

PARBOLD library will be hosting a number of events for book and poetry lovers.

On Wednesday, October 3 between 10.30 and 11.30am Book and a Brew provides an opportunity to share a love of reading in a relaxed space with a brew.

And on Thursday, October 4, National Poetry Day, between 10.30 and 11.30am local poet, David Secrett will be reading some of his own work and favourite poems of the library's customers and staff.

If you have a favourite poem drop it into the library before the event and, time permitting, David will read it aloud for you, or you can read it yourself on the day.

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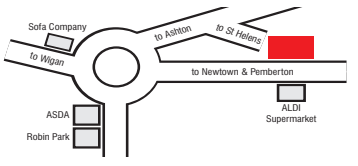

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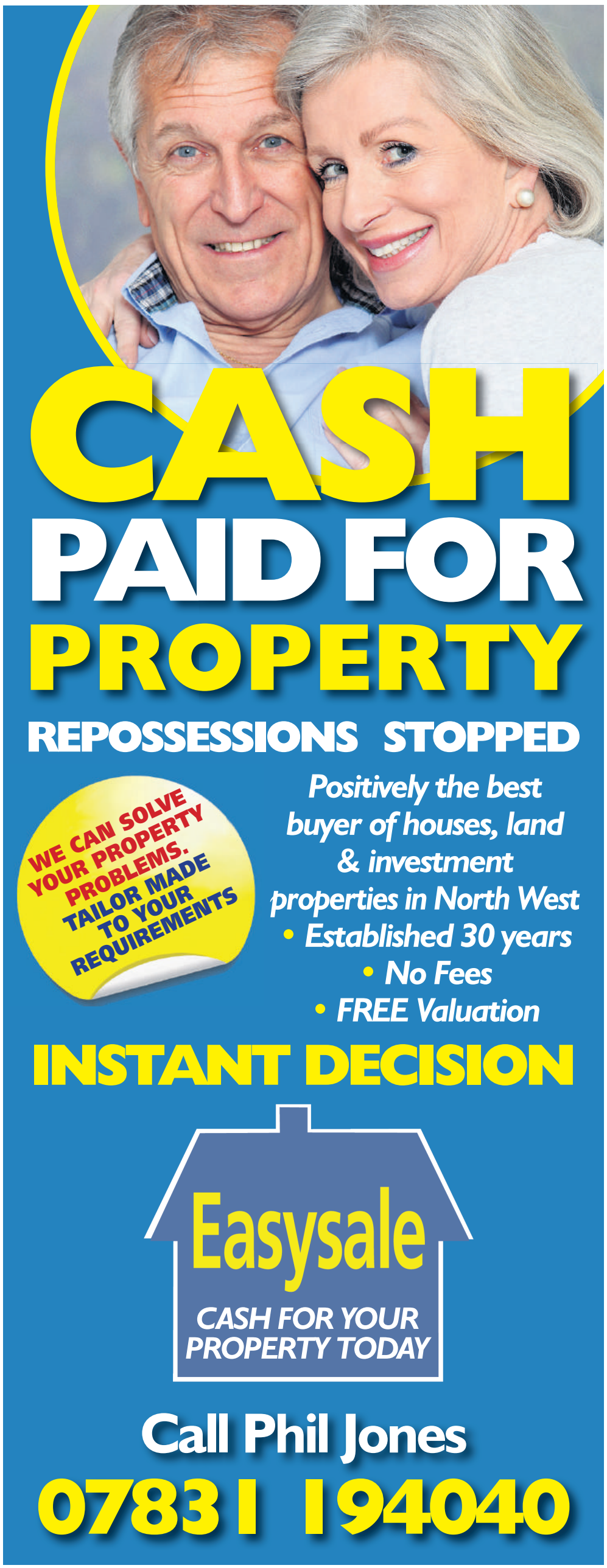

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MP seeks meeting with district nurses over concerns for future and funding

Report by **Henry James**

ROSIE Cooper says she has been "inundated" with letters from district nurses concerned about the future of the profession.

The letters claim that the number of district nurses in England has fallen from 7,700 in 2010 to only 4,400 today and that funding for training courses is under threat.

West Lancs MP Ms Cooper says she has raised these concerns with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock and with local NHS leaders.

However she is unable to contact the nurses directly as none of the correspondence included any contact details.

Rosie Cooper MP

Importance

She said: "I was inundated with letters from district nurses with clear and understandable concerns about the future of their service, despite their importance to the NHS and their role in ensuring patients can be discharged.

"Unfortunately, none of the letters signed and sent to me include any correspondence details so I am unable to confirm to them the actions I have taken on the back of their communication.

"I have raised the concerns with the Health Secretary and with local NHS leaders and will gladly share my progress on these matters with the district nurses if they contact me or my office by email at rosie@rosiecooper.net or by ringing 01695 570094.

"Perhaps someone from the Queen's Nursing Initiative could inform their West Lancashire supporters that I would be pleased to meet with the district nurses to discuss their concerns."

Chinatown expert to talk at historical society meeting

AN expert on the history and architecture of Liverpool's Chinatown will be guest speaker at the next meeting of the Ormskirk Historical Society.

The society meets fortnightly on Mondays from October to March at the Four Lane Ends Mission, Skelmersdale Road, Bickerstaffe.

Colin Ling will present his talk, Liverpool's Chinatown, on Monday, October 1 from 7.30pm.

Membership fee is £16 per annum and the charge to visitors is £3 per session. Students can attend for free.

For more information go to the wesbite at www.ormskirkhistoricalsociety.co.uk or contact Pamela Nanson on 01704 631191.

Church Friends group to host G&S favourite

THE inaugural event organised by the newly-formed Friends of St Cuthbert's Church, Halsall will be a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's popular *Pirates of Penzance* by The Hoghton Players on Saturday, October 6 from 7.30pm.

Tickets are £7 (£5 for 'friends') and available from the church or by phoning 01704 841085.

Entry is free for children and there will be prizes for youngsters in fancy dress.

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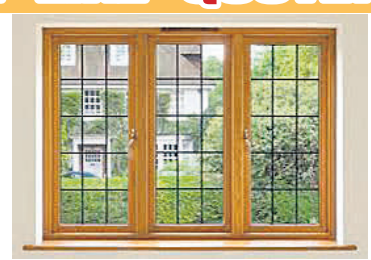

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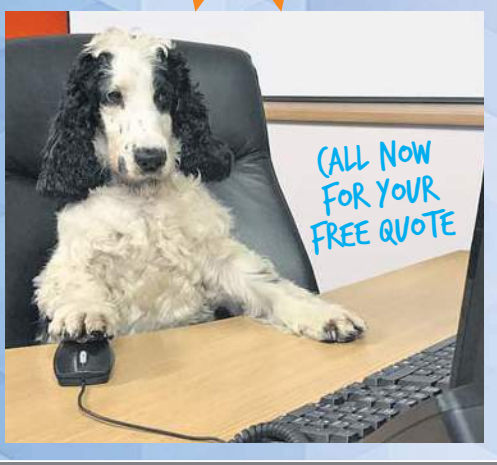

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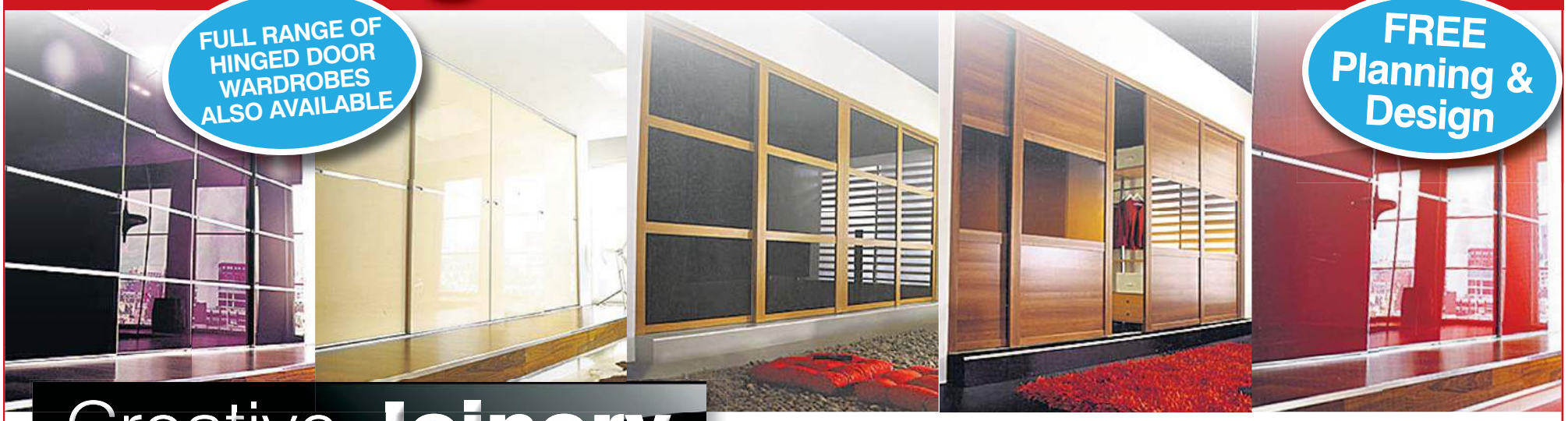

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Edge Hill named fifth best university in the North West in Times 2019 guide

Report by **Henry James**

Edge Hill University

EDGE Hill has been named the fifth best university in the North West by The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019.

The Ormskirk university also ranks 59th in the UK with 77% of students going on to find professional work or further education after graduation.

The North West of England boasts four universities in the national top 50 - Lancaster (sixth), Manchester (19th), Liverpool (31st) and Liverpool Hope (50th).

The new edition of The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019 claims to provide the definitive rankings for UK universities and the most comprehensive overview of higher education in Britain.

It includes profiles on 132 universities and makes use of the latest data published in the past two months.

Commended

The guide showed that the teaching quality at Edge Hill was rated at 82.9%, while students rated their experience at 81.1%. In addition, 71.9% of students gained firsts and 2:1s during the academic year 2016-17.

The guide says the following about Edge Hill University: "Edge Hill may have been to some a surprising name on the list of five new medical schools announced this year but it has been confounding sceptics since it became a university in 2005 and is among the top dozen post-1992 universities in our table.

"Rated gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework – one of only three in the North West to achieve the top award in its first year – Edge Hill was commended for its academic support, assessment and feedback.

"The panel noted that 'students from diverse backgrounds achieve consistently outstanding outcomes'. Almost all its students are state-educated and the projected drop-out rate is much better than the university's benchmark."

Lancaster University was rated the best in the North West in the guide.

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Council sheds light on proposed Local Plan

By **Kenny Parker**

WEST Lancs council has provided answers to frequently asked questions arising from the new Local Plan Preferred Options, addressing issues including how it says infrastructure will be provided to meet the new developments.

The cabinet recently approved a public consultation on the plans, which will begin on Friday, October 12.

Details will be provided on the council's website and also through the Champion newspaper.

The plans, which propose the release of 590 hectares of greenbelt for the provision of 16,000 homes and 190 hectares for employment uses, have already been strongly opposed by the Labour counci's political rivals and also by residents of neighbouring Rainford, who say the developments will adversely affect the village, without providing any of the economic befit.

Both the Conservatives and Our West Lancashire say the current Local Plan is adequately meeting the needs of the borough.

Here is a selection of Q&A provided by the council:

Q. Why is a new Local Plan needed?

A. The adopted Local Plan is now five years old and recent changes to national planning policy requires Local Authorities to review their Local Plans every five years.

Members of the public attending the cabinet meeting where the consultation was approved.

Over the last five years, significant opportunities have arisen in the Liverpool City Region and wider North-West because of the growth of the Port of Liverpool, the Atlantic Gateway concept and the Logistics industry in general, and the economic growth that these and other factors associated with the Northern Powerhouse bring can only be if there is land made available through a Local Plan to accommodate new business premises.

The adopted Local Plan does not include sufficient land in the right places and of the right size to allow West Lancashire to capitalise on this growth in that way.

Q. Why are the council planning to 2050?

A. There are several reasons why the council thinks it will be better to have a longer-term planning strategy to 2050 than would usually be the case for a Local Plan:

1) It enables the council, developers and infrastructure providers to plan comprehensively for new development and the infrastructure to go with it. A typical Local Plan allows for only just enough land to be allocated for development to meet short-term housing and business needs, and so small allocations on the edge of towns and villages tend to come forward in isolation and without being able to make a significant contribution to the new infrastructure needs they generate.The scale of development also means it is more likely that the council and other infrastructure providers will be able to access funding for new infrastructure.

2) By allocating sufficient land to meet development needs for the next 30+ years in one Local Plan, it creates greater competition in the land market, which means that land values are stabilised and developments can therefore afford to make the full contributions they are required to for affordable housing and new infrastructure.

Q. Why don't we just build on brownfield sites?

A. There are very few brownfield sites left in West Lancashire that are suitable for development and all those that are, have been accounted for in the anticipated delivery under the current, adopted Local Plan.

Plans for former Old Roan pub are a Turkish delight!

PLANS have been unveiled to transform the former Old Roan pub into a Turkish restaurant.

The landmark building, near Aintree, has stood empty for five years, after a retail redevelopment plan fell through, but it could finally come back into use with proposals for the former pub to become an Anar Turkish BBQ Restaurant.

The plans involve building an extension at the side of the existing building to make room for 166 customer seats and the creation of a car park for 34 vehicles.

Images show the seating plan of the proposed restaurant with a greeting area and cloakroom.

Anar Turkish BBQ Restaurant currently has a popular eatery based on Prescot Road, in Liverpool and the Old Roan venue will be of a similar design.

Anar is described as family owned restaurant business which offers "a variety of Mediterranean and Turkish dishes, all served within a comfortable, warm setting."

A planning application submitted by a company on behalf of Anar states: "This large former public house ceased trading in August 2013 and the site has been vacant since that time.

"If renovated to a high standard it would provide an excellent venue for the well-established Liverpool/Turkish restaurant brand Anar.

"The current building is abandoned and is in desperate need of repairs

Above: plans for the former Old Roan pub and below: how it looks at the moment

and a renovation, which the client is willing to undertake. Since the building is well established in the local area, the client seeks to retain the existing building and add a modern dining area to the main building.

"The new restaurant provides a renewed vitality and life back into this popular (and well known) landmark."

The applicant adds that much of the current site, which is overgrown, would be remodelled to provide additional parking.

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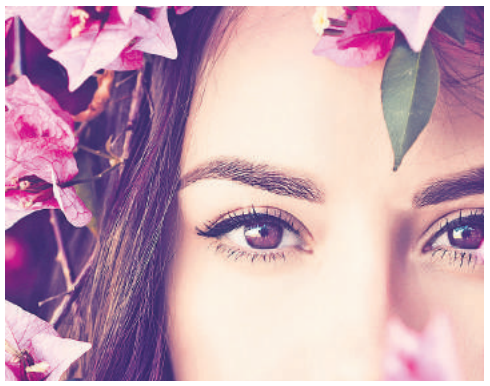
National Eye Health Week 24th – 30th September 2018



The annual National Eye Health Week (NEHW) will take place 24th-30th September 2018. Once again, eye care charities, organisations and health professionals from across the UK are joining together to promote the importance of eye health, and the need for regular sight tests for all.

Eyesight may often be taken for granted but, with 86% of people in the UK valuing their eyesight above any other sense, it is important to make sure that we protect and preserve our sight to maintain normal daily activities such as driving and reading. The ageing population and unhealthy lifestyles are fuelling a steep decline in our vision, yet according to research conducted by the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) half of all sight loss is avoidable.

Mrs Hilary Phillips, Consultant Ophthalmologist, advises on the importance of regular eye checks at a local optician, and explains some of the most common eye diseases along with the symptoms you should be looking out for.

Mrs Phillips states "It is vitally important that everyone visits their local optician every 12-18 months. Opticians are not just prescribers of glasses. They are proficient in treating conditions such as dry eyes and they also have the facilities to screen for Glaucoma, Cataract, Age Related Macular Degeneration and Diabetic Retinopathy, some of which have no warning signs. Immediate family members of patients suffering with Glaucoma, over the age of 40, should be screened once a year as they have a 10% higher risk of developing Glaucoma than the average person with no family history. Your Optician will be experienced at checking eye pressures, looking for optic nerve damage and carrying out tests to look at the peripheral vision."

There are simple steps you can take to help maintain good eye health such as; regular eye tests, keeping your eyes covered in the sun, protecting your eyes with safety googles, that are sealed around the eye area, during DIY, and ensuring that you lead a healthy lifestyle. Eating a healthy diet and watching your weight can help to avoid diabetes, a disease that affects all the organs and the eye is no exception. Diabetic Retinopathy checks should be carried out annually, in all diabetics, as early disease can be treated. Good blood sugar control is beneficial in diabetic patients to reduce the risk of Diabetic Retinopathy. It is important if you have Diabetic Retinopathy that you visit your optician every year, as studies have proven that this preserves vision longer than untreated patients.

Smoking is known to worsen and progress ARMD (Age-Related Macular Disease), however on cessation of smoking many patients find that their vision improves. Good blood pressure control and control of high cholesterol is beneficial to the whole body, however in the eye it reduces the risks of Diabetic Retinopathy, retinal vein and artery occlusions, which can cause a loss of vision.

With an aging population and increase in life expectancy, Age Related Macular Degeneration and Cataracts are becoming more common. Eating a diet low in saturated fats but rich in green leafy vegetables such as spinach and broccoli may delay the progression of cataracts and Age-Related Macular Disease (ARMD).

Cataracts are usually present in the older population however diabetic patients or patients on oral steroids may present with symptoms earlier. There are different types of cataracts and they can develop at different rates. Common symptoms are generally reduced vision, glare particularly at night and a change in focus (myopic shift) allowing the patient to read without glasses. Distance vision is affected and will continue to deteriorate overtime as the cataract progresses. Cataract surgery is usually performed as a day case operation, a prescriptive lens is inserted once the cataract has been removed.

As people hit the age of 40 they start to become presbyopic. This means they have difficulty with focusing on tasks requiring near vision and need glasses for reading, this can be addressed by your optician."

1.8 million people in the UK are living with sight loss. For 53% of these, a simple sight test and new spectacles could really help. If you have any concerns about your vision or are experiencing any flashes or floaters, do not hesitate in visiting your local optician.

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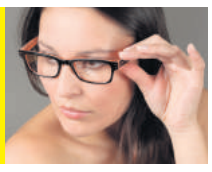

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Regular eye tests more vital than ever with ageing workforce

WITH an ageing population and record number of older people in work, Specsavers and the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) are reminding people of the importance of regular eye tests to maintain and protect their sight.

There are now more than 1.2 million Brits aged over 65 working as people continue to live longer and healthier lives. Yet research* has revealed that 250 people start losing their sight every day even though at least half of all sight loss is avoidable. Early detection is vital in the management and successful treatment of many conditions, with regular eye tests being key. But despite that, one in four people are not having an eye test every two years as recommended.

Hairy Bikers star Dave Myers has teamed up with Specsavers and RNIB this National Eye Health Week (24-30 September) to help raise awareness of the importance of eye tests. The 61-year-old was diagnosed with glaucoma seven years ago following a routine visit to the opticians. It could have affected his career, but swift detection has protected the chef's sight by enabling him to successfully manage the condition with daily eye drops.

'I was shocked because I had no symptoms, but if it had gone unnoticed, I could have gone blind. Like so many people, my career is my passion and it's so hard to imagine doing all the things I love if I couldn't see.'

RNIB interim CEO Eliot Lyne added:

'Research shows that the older you are, the greater your chances of developing an eye condition, so it is very important that people book themselves in for an eye test every two years.

'With the right support, people with sight loss can continue working, and if you are an employer, RNIB and other organisations can help you to properly support a member of staff who is losing their sight.

'Advances in technology mean that blind and partially sighted people can now overcome many of the barriers to work that they faced in the past, and government schemes like Access to Work mean that many of the costs can be met.'

All Specsavers optometrists are accredited in detecting and monitoring glaucoma, cataracts and other eye health conditions. To complement their skills, Specsavers and RNIB have also launched eye health training for Specsavers' non clinical teams, including optical assistants and frame stylists, to ensure that whoever a customer first sees in-store is sympathetic to their eye care needs.

* YouGov Survey commissioned by Specsavers and RNIB 23rd June -7th July 2017 of 6,430 UK adults aged 18+.

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50% of sight loss is avoidable

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Transforming eye health

Source: Specsavers and RNIB State of the Nation report 2017. ©2018 Specsavers. All rights reserved.

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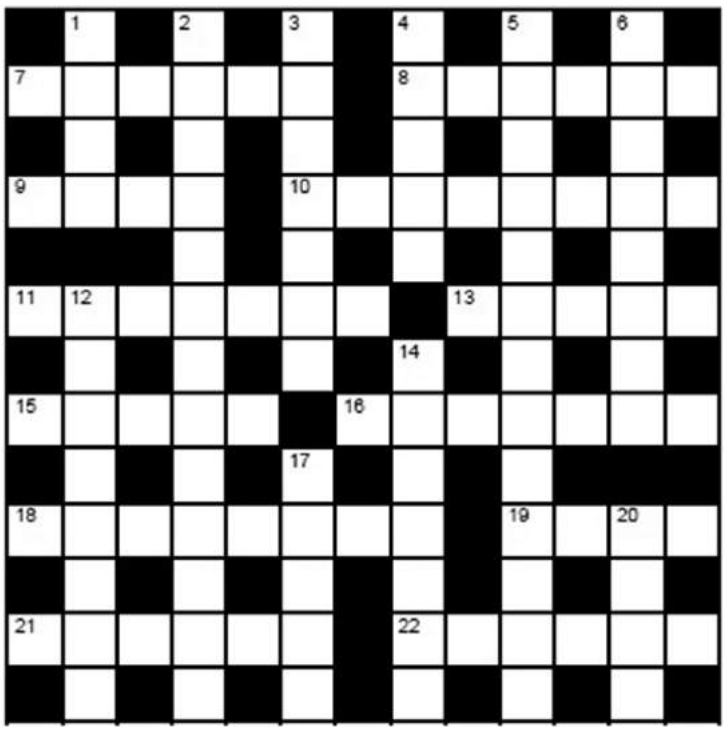
Week 39.2018



Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Indeterminate. 8. Mnemonic. 9. Exam. 10. Surname. 12. Their. 14. State. 16. Goodbye. 19. Smut. 20. Rotation. 22 Alpha particle.

Down: 1. Anon. 2. Sermon. 3. Pen name. 4. Smack. 5. Enmesh. 6. Steadily. 11. Untimely. 13. Contort. 15. Techy. 17. Detain. 18. Crepe. 21. Oslo.

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ACROSS

7. The roof of the mouth (6)
8. Waiting for a call to be connected (2, 4)
9. A bird's 'home' (4)
10. International organisation that helps casualties of war or natural disasters (3, 5)
11. Strong feeling or emotion (7)
13. Abbreviated term for a formerly common serious viral infection (5)
15. A seat without a back or arms (5)
16. An excess or surplus, especially the amount by which a sum of money is greater than a previous estimate (7)
18. A person on their hands and knees is said to be on this (3, 4)
19. Sport played on horseback (4)
21. To show a continuous and dramatic increase (6)
22. Television watcher (6)

DOWN

1. Created, manufactured (4)
2. Particularly difficult start to a new job or task (7, 2, 4)
3. Part of a house where people usually sleep (7)
4. Mild Dutch cheese (5)
5. Person who composes the steps and moves for a dance performance (13)
6. Benediction (8)
12. Genus of deer-like ruminant native to Africa and Asia (8)
14. Non-committal (7)
17. Duvet (5)
20. Untruths (4)

Members of the Southport Swords celebrate their anniversary at the town's Wayfarers Arcade.

Put to the sword...

Dance troupe celebrates 50th anniversary with combined displays in Sefton and West Lancs

MEMBERS of a morris dancing troupe marked their 50th centenary with a series of events in Sefton and West Lancashire.

The Southport Swords group were formed in 1968, primarily to participate in English longsword dance, but have also been known to include 'Cotswold Morris' dancing in their routines

They marked their special anniversary by playing host to seven fellow morris dancing organisations from as far afield as Yorkshire and The Forest of Deane at events in Ormskirk town centre, Formby Village and five venues in Southport.

If you fancy trying sword dancing the group practices most Tuesday evenings at The Mount Pleasant in Manchester Road, Southport from 9pm.

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Champion ENTERTAINMENT

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Too Friendly's new show aims to put audiences in mood for changing seasons

THE TOO Friendly Theatre Company are famed for the quality of their productions, having won Best Play in this year's National Operatic and Dramatic Association Awards, and for their staging of Par for the Course in May last year.

Their next production is Farndale's A Christmas Carol which looks set to be another enthusiastic outing for this talented group. So, if you want a fabulous evening's entertainment then look no further than this. It will put you in the mood for the changing season and give you lots of laughs along the way.

The Farndale Avenue Townswoman's Guild is a fictional society who are the stars of a series of plays by David McGillvray and Walter Zerlin Jnr.

Imagine the Woman's Institute putting on a play and most of the things in that play going wrong, and you have the measure of the Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of A Christmas Carol!

"It doesn't really matter to the woman of the Guild that it is only September," explained Joanne Wasilew who plays the chairwoman of the Guild, Mrs. Reece. "They like to be ahead of the game! This isn't a Christmas play. It's a play about a group of women trying to put on a Christmas play and it is hilarious. Rehearsals are difficult sometimes because we make each other laugh so much!"

Director Cliff Gillies who also takes on the role of Gordon Pugh, stage manager and reluctant actor, explained that two previous Farndale plays have been performed in Too friendly's history, Macbeth and Murder Mystery and they have always been met with great applause from the audience. "I think it's because the women try really hard, but things just don't go right for them. This creates a lot of comical situations which audiences really react to."

Neil Woods and Sue Fryer in a past production of The Too Friendly Theatre Company

In this play, diva Thelma (played by Tracey Holmes-Smith) takes on the role of miserly Scrooge while all the other characters play a multitude of roles. In her first play with the Too Friendly Theatre Company, Jenny Roby said: "It is exciting and terrifying! I have never played more than one character before but here I'm playing Felicity who is playing Fred and a snowman and a child! It is a challenge for an actor but also great fun."

This is a play within a play which is also a party and an excuse for a sing-a-long. Tracey explained: "The show includes two specially written songs, so that has been a new challenge for the actors, but it just adds to the fun."

Susan Fryer plays accident prone Mercedes and even engaged in some method acting by breaking her wrist during rehearsals. "Performing with a cast has only added to the comedy!"

The show is on at The Civic in Ormskirk from September 27 until September 29. Tickets are just £9 and are available on 01704 560229.

A scene from A Bunch of Amateurs. Picture by Fletcher Hill photography

A Bunch of Amateurs offers 'a perceptive glance behind the scenes' of theatre

Review by **Ron Ellis**

A Bunch of Amateurs by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman
SDC at Southport Little Theatre

WHO better to play an amateur dramatic company than another amateur dramatic company? You're right, nobody. Especially when they do it so well.

Tony O'Keefe gave a sterling performance as Jefferson Steel, a fading Hollywood star who comes over to England to play King Lear at Stratford on Avon only to find the venue is actually Stratford St. John in Suffolk. Not the Royal Shakespeare Company but a bunch of amateur actors who are trying to save their dilapidated theatre from closure.

Instead of a hotel suite he is offered a B & B and, instead of a limousine, a mobility scooter is provided.

He is not pleased but he can't get out of the contract so spends most of the time ranting.

The society members are not too happy at his arrogance either but the show's director, Dorothy (Kathy Felton-Aksoy), wins the battle of wits between them hands down.

John Sharp produces his trademark over-the-top performance as luvvie, Nigel, who considers himself to be on a level with Laurence Olivier. Nigel is so furious he hasn't been given the role of Lear himself that he is determined to sabotage the performance.

Andrew Sloman personifies the sycophantic Dozy Dennis; Helen Bennett wrings her hands credibly as a star-struck Mary and Laura Hall, playing the show's sponsor, Emma, induces hearty laughter from the audience when giving a provocative physiotherapy massage to a trouserless Steel.

When Steel's estranged daughter turns up, a composed portrayal by Toni Spofforth, he decides to take his role seriously, hoping to regain her respect and affection and suddenly the production starts to gell with triumphant results.

The cast was completed by Chris Rimmer, John Delahunty, Ann Richards, Jess Wall and Laura-Jane Palmer as The Stratford Players who entertained with folksy ditties between scenes.

Although there were plenty of laughs along the way, the script suffers by too much emphasis on the basic theme of Steel's resentment. However, under the experienced direction of Stephen Hughes-Alty, we get an entertainingly insightful look behind the curtain showing how the interplay between the competing egos of the cast creates jealousy and narcissism amongst the members.

Star rating 7 out of 10. A perceptive glance behind the scenes.

Wait almost over for new play

THE wait is almost over until the premiere of the new stage play By The Waters Of Liverpool opens at the Liverpool Empire.

The play is the long-awaited sequel to Helen Forrester's much-loved Twopence To Cross The Mersey – and this will be the first time the book has been brought to life on stage.

By The Waters Of Liverpool will run at the Liverpool Empire from Wednesday, October 3 through to Saturday, October 13.

The cast of 10 includes three much-loved actors who return to their roles with the Forrester family, Maria Lovelady as Helen, Emma Dears as Helen's Mother, and Mark Moraghan as Helen's Father.

The cast also includes Eric Potts, Stephanie Dooley, Lynn Francis, Roy Carruthers, Danny O'Brien – who all appeared in Pulse Records' recent production, Lennon's Banjo. They are joined by Emily Hughes as Fiona and Nathan McMullen as Alan, both are previous members of the Liverpool Everyman Company and complete the Forrester family.

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Can you Hold a Tune?

Crosby Gilbert and Sullivan Society are currently rehearsing for two events which will take place shortly.

Firstly, following the success of a similar event last year "The Wonderful World of Gilbert and Sullivan" will take place on Saturday 10th November 2018 at St. Faiths Church, Crosby. The last concert was a very enjoyable one and was well received by all who attended. Tickets for this event are only £10 including refreshments.

Secondly, advance notice of what promises to be an excellent production of HMS Pinafore incorporating Trial by Jury will take place at the Little Theatre, Southport from Weds 20th to Sat 23rd March 2019. These two shows have always been popular and tickets will be in demand. For further details and/or tickets for both events please contact Margaret on 07870319686 or 015192459767.

Should you be able to hold a tune and wish to take part in the above production of HMS Pinafore, new members and all voices are always welcome. Rehearsals take place each Thursday evening commencing 8.00pm at Christ Church, Alexandra Rd. Waterloo L22 1RJ. Please contact Margaret (telephone above) or any other member of the Society for further information.

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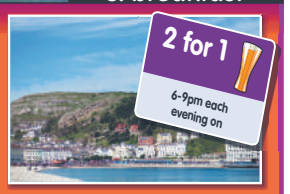

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FRITH RUG multi coloured, 100% wool, 36" x 60", very good condition, can text or email photo, £30, cost over £100 01704 871081

BATHROOM CABINET Ikea, large £20. Two pairs Next curtains, 90/90 £30. Matching cushions, 2 throws £20 0151 3528206

BATHROOM SUITE white, bath with taps, sink with taps, pedestal, toilet cistern, toilet seat, toilet, very good condition £55 01695 725203

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after a short illness
aged 40 years

Much loved Mum of Callum and Connor. Daughter of Sue and James (deceased), Step Daughter to Eric. Sister to Shona and Stuart. Sister in law of Kevin and Amanda. Best friend to Melanie and Auntie to Charlotte, Thomas, Camilla and Zara. Funeral at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 27th September 2018 at 12:15pm. Family flowers only please by request but donations if desired to MIND. Donations and further enquiries to MLS Independent Funeral Directors, Aughton. Tel:01695 424888

ROBINSON JEAN

18th September 2018
Aged 79 years

Died suddenly but peacefully. Loving Wife of the late John and much loved Mum of George. Jean will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Ormskirk, L40 7SP on Wednesday 3rd October at 10:45am. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being collected for Macmillan Cancer Support. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

WALSH MARGARET

Passed away peacefully
23rd September 2018
aged 92 years
of Southport, formerly of Skelmersdale

Will be sadly missed by all the family, for funeral times and further enquires please contact Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton. Tel: 01695 424888.

Announcements

Call the Classified Sales Team on **01704 392392** or check-out our website **www.champnews.com**

DEATHS

WILLIAMS ELWYN

Passed away peacefully in hospital
on the 17th September 2018
aged 89 years

Much loved Husband of Mary and dear Father to Clive and Peter. Elwyn will be deeply missed by his family and all his friends. Funeral Service to be held at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Thursday 27th September 2018 at 1.45pm.Guests are asked to wear casual and comfortable clothing. Family flowers only please however donations are kindly being received for Cancer Research. Enquiries to Neal Buckley, Tarleton Funeral Home,49 Church Road, Tarleton, PR46UQ. Tel: 01772 301700.

WHITEHOUSE RITA
Nee Casterton

On 19th September 2018

Peacefully in Queenscourt Hospice, after a short illness, with her loving Daughter Debbie present. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 27th September at 3:15pm. No flowers by request, Donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice and Cancer Research UK. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG, Tel. 01704 214118.

FOY STEVEN

6th September 2018
Aged 40 years

Loving Dad of his 4 children, much loved Son of Josie and Robert, cherished brother of Mark and Amy. Will be very sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 28th September 2018 at 12.15pm. No formal dress is required. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired are yet to be decided. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel 01695 559868.

DEATHS

FORRESTER WILLIAM STEWART

September 18th 2018
Aged 76 years

Will be sadly missed by all his loving family and friends. Funeral service to be held at Southport Crematorium on Friday 5th October at 10.40 am. Family flowers only please. All enquiries to Broadbent & Seddon Funeral Directors, 33 Liverpool Road, Southport PR8 4AG. Tel 01704 550055.

BANKS RAYMOND THOMAS

Of California
formerly of Halsall
Passed away on
24th August 2018
aged 83 years

Funeral Service and Interment at St. Cuthberts Church, Halsall. For funeral times and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton. Tel: 01695 424888

GOGERTY GEORGE

20th September 2018
Passed away peacefully
aged 86 years
of Aughton

Loving Husband of Myra, and a much loved Dad of Mark and Val. Beloved Grandfather and Great-Grandfather to all his Grandchildren and their families. Family flowers only, donations if so desired for Ormskirk Food Bank. For Funeral arrangements please contact Louis Hunter. MLS Independent Funeral Directors 20, Moss Delph Lane Aughton, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 424888

DEATHS

RILEY JOHN LONEN

Acknowledgement
7th September 2018

Hilary, Janet and Clair wish to express their gratitude for all the beautiful cards, flowers, messages of condolence and support received during their recent bereavement and very sad time in their lives. Heartfelt thanks to all family and friends who attended the service at the Crematorium, your support was overwhelming and very much appreciated. Special appreciation goes to Michael Rushton Funeral Directors for his care, professionalism and dignified arrangements, Dr Quinlan from St Marks Medical Centre, District Nurses, Carers from Care Concern, Hospice Specialist Nurse, staff from Hospice at Home, Canon Dr Rod Garner and Sue Palmer for the lovely service.

ORRITT JOHN

13th September 2018
Aged 88 years

Died peacefully after a long illness. Loving Husband of Ann. Much loved Dad of Jean, Father-In-Law of Ron. Cherished Grandad of Kathleen & Karl. Devoted Great-Grandpa to Oscar & George. John will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at St. Stephen's Parish Church, Banks on Thursday 4th October at 2:15pm followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Ormskirk, L40 7SP. Family flowers only please. Donations are being collected for St. Stephen's Parish Church & Banks Brass Band. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

CARDWELL LISA

Suddenly passed away
31st August 2018
aged 50 years
of Burscough

Loved and missed by all her family and friends. The Family would like to thank the District Nurses and all the staff at Fish Locks for their care and attention given to Lisa. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 28th September 2018 at 1.00pm. Family flowers only please but donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice. Donation and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors 22a Liverpool Road North, Burscough. Tel: 01704 891555.

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BIRCH DEREK (DAVE)

18th September 2018
Peacefully
aged 73 years

Dear Husband of Barbara, loving Dad of Allan and Nicola and a much loved Grandad of Hannah, Nathan and Jessica. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Always in our hearts. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 1st October at 1pm. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Cancer Research. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel:01695 559868

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DEATHS

WOOD PAM
(Nee Rimmer)

Passed away peacefully in hospital
18th September 2018
aged 56 years

Loving Daughter of Sheila and devoted Mother to Laura. Loving Partner of Joe. Sister of Kevin (deceased), Lorraine, Graham, Shaun and Barry. Sister-in-law to Barry, Tina, Helen and Tracey. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends. Funeral service will be held at Southport Crematorium on Tuesday 2nd October 2018 at 10.40am. Family flowers only but donations will be gratefully received for Intensive Care Unit, Southport Hospital. Further enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, Roe Lane Southport. Tel: 01704 778003

ROWAN CHRIS

19th September 2018
Peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family
Aged 82 years.

Much loved Husband of the late Vera, loving Dad of Julie, Lynn, Bernadette and Jeanette, Father-in-Law of Wayne, Reg and Ray, devoted Grandad of Christopher, Keith, Stacey, Lloyd, Kirsty and Ben and Great Grandad to Alby and Sienna (Now reunited with Wife Vera and beautiful Grandaughter Stacey) Funeral Service at St Elizabeth's Church, Litherland on Friday 28th September at 1pm. Cremation following at Thornton Crematorium. Enquiries to David Clegg Independent Funeral Service, 77-79 Bridge Road, Litherland, L21 2PA. Tel 0151 928 6665

DEATHS

HALL TOM

Quietly passed away with dignity and grace, on Wednesday 19th September Aged 96 years

Husband of Ena for 70 years, Dad of Janet (Adrian) Christine and Tom (Sheila) and Jill, Grandpa of Joanna (Jen) Katie (Chris) Camilla, Alex, Caroline (John) and Matthew, Great Grandpa of Isaac and Christopher. Much loved by all his family and those who cared and looked after him like he was their own. Funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Monday 1st October at 1:20pm. This is a celebration no need to wear black. Family flowers only by request donations if so desired for Alzheimer's society. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel. 01704 214118.

BRITTON JOAN

9th September 2018
Aged 60 years

Loving Partner of Kevin. Devoted Mum of Rachel and Sarah. Cherished Nana of her eight Grandchildren, much loved Daughter, Sister and Auntie. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 28th September at 3.15pm. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Breast Cancer Care or MacMillan Support. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

DEATHS

ROCHFORD PATRICIA (PAT)
(Nee Moran)

23rd September 2018
Peacefully at home
aged 75 years

Loving Wife of Phil, devoted Mum of Paul, Collette, Dave and Suzanne. Cherished Nan of all her Grandchildren. Always in our hearts. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

"When you think of Pat, remember she always had a smile"

Requiem Mass will be held at St. Richards Church on Monday 1st October at 1pm followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Colourful/blue clothing to be worn please (not black). Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel:01695 559868

MEADOWS ANITA DENISE

R-I-P
17th September 2018
Aged 83 years

Died peacefully after a long battle with cancer. She showed nothing but medal worthy courage throughout her long ordeal. Loving Wife of Kenneth. Much loved Mum of Warren and cherished Grandma of Adan, Marcus, Imogen and Ella-Mae. Anita will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at St Joseph's R.C Parish Church, Birkdale on Monday 1st October at 11:30am followed by interment at Ainsdale Catholic Cemetery. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being collected for Queenscourt Hospice. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

WHITEHOUSE RITA

19th September 2018

To my dear friend "Rita"

You will be remembered for the happiness, love and laughter you gave when we met and will be sadly missed by your good friend Mary and the Lee family.
xxxxx

GIBSON PAMELA

Passed away peacefully
22nd September 2018
Aged 59 Years
of Ormskirk

Loved and Missed by all her Family and Friends. For Funeral times and Further Enquiries please contact Anabel Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a Liverpool Road North, Burscough, Lancs, L40 5TP. Tel: 01704 891555.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RILEY DEREK PAUL

Emma, Carl and Neil wish to sincerely thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their messages of condolence, sympathy cards and donations received during their recent sad loss of Derek. Special thanks to Emma, Phil and Micky for all their loving support, also the district nurses and Queenscourt Hospice for their compassionate care and to Ann, Micky and Hazel for the beautiful flowers. Grateful thanks to Deacon Philip McDermott for his prayers and kind ministrations, and Lisa Hunter and team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for all their help and professional arrangements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIMPSON HAROLD

Win, Cath and Geoff would like to express most sincere thanks to their many friends and relatives for the heartfelt messages of sympathy, support and donations to Cancer Research and Ormskirk Parish Church, on the very sad loss of Harold. Special thanks to Rev. Pauline Bicknell for the most beautiful Funeral Service and to Lisa Hunter and all the Team at MLS Funeral Directors for their dignified and caring support throughout.

WHYTE LILIAN

Helen and family would like to express sincere gratitude to all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and for the donations received for Holy Trinity Church Tarleton and Smile Train. Thank you to Father David and Father Nicholas for their thoughtful funeral service. A special thank you to Derek Crawford and team at Howard's Funeral Directors for their outstanding funeral arrangements.

MILLS RICHARD CHARLES

The Family would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, Friends and neighbours for all their sympathy cards, messages of condolence and Donations for Cancer Research, received during their recent sad loss. Thanks also to Rev. Pauline Bicknell for her lovely words of comfort and Anabel Hunter and the Team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for their dignified funeral arrangements.

IN MEMORIAM

TILLEY NORMAN

26TH September 2017

No words can say how much we all miss you.

One year today.

Lots of Love Wife Anne.Children Louise,Emily,Darren and Collette.

XXXXX

BURKE EVELYN

26th September 2013

5 years since you passed.

The moment you left us
Our hearts split in two
One side filled with memories
The other side died with you

We often lay awake at night
When the world is off to sleep
And take a walk down memory lane
With tears upon our cheeks

Remembering you is easy
We do it everyday
But missing you is a heartache
That never goes away

We hold you tightly within our heart
And there you will remain
You see life has gone without you
But will never be the same

Daughters, Sons, Daughter In Laws, Sons In Laws, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

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IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAMS BERNARD

26th September 2015

3 years have gone since you passed away,
I love and miss you every day.
From your loving partner Mary.
xxx

MOORCROFT BRENDA

25th September 2017

"We are sad within our memory.
Lonely are our hearts today;
For the one we loved so dearly
Has forever been called away.
We think of her in silence.
No eye may see us weep;
But many silent tears are shed
When others are asleep."

Your Loving Husband Ron and Son Kevin
xxxx

IN MEMORIAM

BERKLEY PETER OWEN

29th September 2014

Four lonely years today. My lovely Husband.

My heart belonged to you P
You have broken us in Two
I know you never meant it
There was nothing you could do
The pain i feel inside me
I have never felt before
The hurt, the pain, the longing
To touch your face once more

Love you forever Pete

"To the stars and back sweetheart until we meet again"
Your broken hearted Marie
XXXX

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O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.

B.W.

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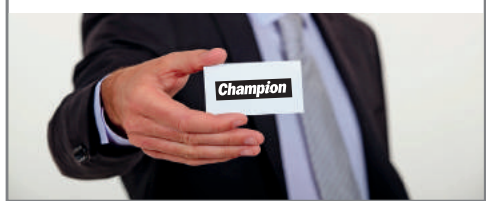

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Development Company Board Member

Location:	**Investment Centre, White Moss Business Park, Maple View, Skelmersdale, WN8 9TG**
Salary:	**Reasonable out of pocket expenses arising from attendance on Board business will be reimbursed**
Post Type:	**Volunteer**
Published:	**Thursday 30 August 2018**
Closing Date:	**Tuesday 16th October 2018**

Reference: HR-0033-18

Could you play a part in helping the Council's Development Company realise its growth and ambitions?

Would you like to join a company that will help tackle the housing crisis locally?

We are looking for someone to help us build homes, create communities, enhance the economy and improve lives.

West Lancashire Borough Council is seeking to appoint two independent members to assist in the setup of its new Development Company. We are looking for commercially experienced individuals who can demonstrate an ability to think strategically and collaboratively while showing great passion and drive for success.

Property development experience is essential, ideally including commercial residential property.

We are looking for someone with the enthusiasm and commitment to support the ambitions of the Council and its independent Development Company.

This role is voluntary role and will require a commitment of approximately 6 meeting per year plus training sessions as and when required.

Reasonable out of pocket expenses arising from attendance on Board business will be reimbursed.

As a Board Member, as well as committing your expertise and some of your time to a challenging and worthwhile business, you will be able to develop your own skills, broaden your CV and benefit from training and development in addition to enjoying the fellowship, experience and expertise of other Board Members.

For further details please contact Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey at claire.durrans@westlancs.gov.uk

To apply for the role please email your CV with a covering statement to Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey at claire.durrans@westlancs.gov.uk no later than Tuesday 16th October 2018.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(CHURCH ROAD, TARLETON, WEST LANCASHIRE) (ZEBRA CROSSING)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council propose to make the above pedestrian crossing under Section 23 of the **Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to introduce a zebra crossing at Church Road, Tarleton from a point 27m in a north east from its centreline junction with Gorse Lane to the start of the zig-zag markings and 68m in a north east direction from its centreline junction with Gorse Lane to the end of the zig-zag markings.

A copy of the relevant notice and plan indicating the location of the crossing may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of the West Lancashire Borough Council, PO Box 16, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF and at the offices of The Director of Corporate Services, Lancashire County Council, Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ, and on Lancashire County Councils Website http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/roads/roadworks-and-traffic-regulation-orders/permanent.aspx. Any representations or objections (specifying the grounds on which they are made) relating to the proposal must be made in writing and should be sent to The Director of Corporate Services, Lancashire County Council, P O Box 78, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ or by e-mail to tro-consultation@lancashire.gov.uk **quoting ref:LSG4/894.8550/HL1** before 24 October 2018

Laura Sales, Director of Corporate Services
26 September 2018

www.lancashire.gov.uk Lancashire County Council

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/0776/FUL Erection of two stables at Park Farm, Croston Drive, Rufford.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/0925/FUL Stables and use of existing field as equestrian space/ paddock at Greenhill Farm, Ash Brow, Newburgh.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
The application affects a Listed Building.
2018/0945/FUL Retrospective application for the replacement of 4 no. chimney pots with new 0.9m high chimney pots to achieve a minimum height above the thatched roof of 1.8m at Stock Cottage, 52 School Lane, Downholland.
The application affects a Listed Building.
2018/0974/LBC Listed Building Consent - Retrospective application for the replacement of 4 no. chimney pots with 0.9m high chimney pots to achieve a minimum height above the thatched roof of 1.8m at Stock Cottage, 52 School Lane, Downholland.
The application affects a Listed Building.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e-mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 24 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

How information about you will be used
The personal data you provide will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties in processing planning and related applications. Some of the personal information you provide will be published. For further information about this notice or how we use your personal data please see: http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-privacy-notices/level-2-development-management-cil-privacy-notice.aspx and http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/legal-statements-and-foi/privacy-and-data-protection-gdpr.aspx. Hard copies are available on request.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 26th September 2018
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT1012

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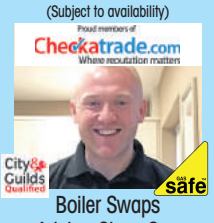

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Amount of Credit	£10,999.57
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Jaguar has shown that all-electric cars can now manage big journeys

This 229 mile drive could be motoring history in the making

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A DRIVE of just 229 miles – that's the *Champion's* offices to Birmingham, and back again – could prove to be a bit of motoring history in the making.

That's how far Jaguar's just sent its new I-Pace, a plushly-trimmed crossover that could be yours for a shade under £59,000, on a fact-finding test drive.

Only it didn't go anywhere as boring as Birmingham, and set off instead from London's South Bank, not stopping again until it'd reached the centre of Brussels.

I really do mean it didn't stop at all, because there was no switching it off and letting a ferry or Eurotunnel carry it to Calais.

The Channel Tunnel's operators gave Jaguar special permission to drive through their service tunnel, so it really did do the entire journey in one hit.

Oh, and I forgot to mention that the I-Pace is an electric car. Which didn't have to stop to top up its batteries once on its emissions-free adventure over three countries.

Jaguar's neatly executed foray across French soil is, of course, a carefully choreographed bit of carmaker PR to plug (sorry) the I-Pace, and I've no doubt that it could just as happily cruise 229 miles somewhere a little less exotic. Birmingham, perhaps. But the nice ring to the achievement – and what it means for zero emissions motoring in general – reminded me of the oldest car event of the lot.

The London to Brighton Run can trace its roots back to 1896, when the requirement to drive behind a bloke waving a red flag was lifted and Britain's petrolhead pioneers could power towards a brighter future.

It's marked every year by pre-1904 cars heading from the capital to the south coast and it's still a hugely significant event, because it celebrates the beginning of British motoring as we know it.

London to Brussels, with a bit of careful nurturing, could become just as symbolic.

I can genuinely imagine an event in another 100 years' time, when pre-2019 electric cars set off from the South Bank and retrace Jaguar's route, disappearing into that service tunnel, and popping out the other side to cheering crowds on their way to Belgium.

It sounds fanciful now, but the feat of driving an electric car all that way *and* underneath the Channel through a very lonely-looking tunnel could well become this century's London to Brighton moment.

Why? Because it neatly sums up what electric cars are finally capable of – if one can get from London to Brussels, it'll also certainly survive your morning commute.

I remember barely a decade ago driving an electric car for the first time and emerging thinking that it was awful.

I wouldn't have trusted it to take me to Liverpool and back without leaving me stranded with a dead battery, let alone making it to Brussels.

That electric cars have gone from this to the I-Pace in under ten years is nothing short of extraordinary.

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

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Skoda is working on making the Kodiaq into a much sportier machine

Skoda now working on a go-faster version of its Kodiaq

SKODA is working on a go-faster version of its Kodiaq off-roader. Fans of the Fabia and Octavia have able to buy them performance-orientated in vRS form for years, but now the badge is on the company's largest offering.

Skoda's remaining tight-lipped on the price and technical details, but says it will have a 240bhp and visual tweaks similar to its smaller vRS siblings.

Expect it to go on sale here early next year.

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Davie Moore has a shot at goal.

Picture by John Driscoll

Skem forced to settle for point after frustrating afternoon in front of goal

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Skelmersdale United 0
Newcastle Town 0

SKELMERSDALE United are still in search of that elusive first league win of the season, but they came close to achieving that aim on Saturday.

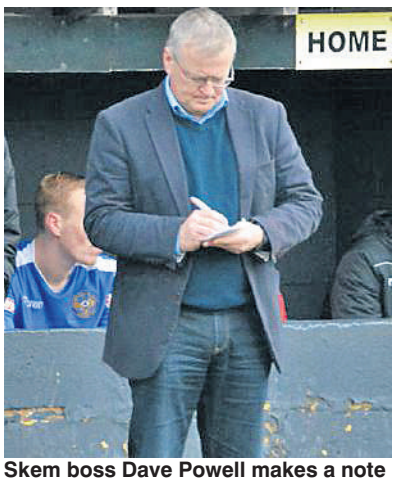
It was a game that saw both goalkeeper's getting the man of the match awards and both teams looking to sharpen up their finishing in front of goal.

Dave Powell's team made their intentions very clear straight from the off and but for a quality diving save from Newcastle goalkeeper Matt Johnson after just 40 seconds they would have taken the lead.

Popular left-back Jack Fleming saw off two challenges before putting in a well struck left-foot shot from 25 yards.

Skelmersdale were the best team for the opening half-hour, young central midfielders Will Dunne and Alex Griffiths aided by the strong running Kevin Edgar creating plenty of problems for the visitors.

In the 21st minute Edgar put the ball across the face of goal but it got no touch, then a minute later Edgar brought a good save out of Johnson after Sean Yeldrem set him up, before on 25 minutes Yeldrem was also thwarted by Johnson. All culminating in a thunderous shot from Griffiths that missed by inches.



Skem boss Dave Powell makes a note during the match

Skem almost grabbed the lead five minutes before half-time, Dunne sold his marker a dummy and put a shot from 25 yards fractionally wide, leaving keeper Johnson flat-footed in the process.

Skelmersdale justifiably went into the interval thinking this was winnable.

Immediately after the restart Davie Moore put one over the Newcastle crossbar, then on 48 minutes Newcastle produced their best move so far when a good pass from Taylor Attreil gave Kyle Stubbs the chance to put a wonderful ball to the near-post, but Skem were let off when Jack Van der Laan fired wide.

It had never been a dull game, but until just before the end it became quite exciting stuff.

Young put a first time shot wide for Newcastle then James Galloway put in a cross that Johnson fumbled under pressure from Griffiths, the midfielder stuck the loose ball into the net, but the goal was ruled out for a foul on the keeper.

In the 80th minute Newcastle got what was arguably the best chance of the match.

Substitute Jonny Kapend put Chris Smith into the clear, his shot from 15 yards was low and going into the net, but Skem goalkeeper Terry Smith matched his rival at the other end with an excellent diving save to his right.

The game changed in the 83rd minute with a red card for Newcastle player Kapend. It may have been for dissent to the assistant but that would only be speculation.

Now reduced to ten men, understandably Newcastle went back onto the defensive and in the end the game just petered out.

Overall it was probably Skelmersdale's best effort all season and they must take heart from it going into three tough games over the next week or so.

In his after match interview Skelmersdale manager Dave Powell said: "It was good to get a point, but we could have had three.

"I thought it could have gone either way but on the balance of play, possession and control of the game I think we deserved more than a point, but we'll take it, it is a positive."

Daunting away trip up next for Powell's side

BOTH Skelmersdale and Burscough could do with some points on the board and this Saturday both teams face tough away games if they are to achieve this, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

Skelmersdale are away to unbeaten top of the table Radcliffe in Evo-Stik Division One West and Burscough make a trip up the M65 to Padiham, who are currently sixth in North-West Counties Premier Division.

Radcliffe who are managed by former Manchester City and Preston star Jonathan Macken and former Chelsea defender Frank Sinclair and they have 16 points from six league games and even have a game in hand on the teams immediately behind them in the table.

However, Skelmersdale will not go entirely without any hope, as they entertained Radcliffe a couple of weeks ago and came close to bagging a share of the points.

A repeat showing would make for an intriguing encounter especially as the high flying hosts will be fully aware of the difficult game Skelmersdale gave them last time, plus it was a bit bad tempered at times.

When Burscough take to the field at the sponsored Ruby Civil Arena on Saturday they will have had two weeks without a game.

That can of course be an advantage or on the other hand a disadvantage, players will be rested but might be a little ring-rusty too. The Linnets lost both games against Padiham last season but will surprise teams with their attacking style, so statistics like that don't matter much to them. Both teams have midweek games next week, one at home and one away. Burscough will have a first ever encounter with newly promoted Whitchurch Alport at Victoria Park, on Tuesday, October 2, kick off 7.45pm.

Whitchurch presently sit behind Burscough in the table with a point less than Burscough and perhaps just as importantly they have been finding goals hard to come by, managing only seven in their opening seven games.

Also on Tuesday, October 2 Skelmersdale make what logistically can be a bit of a nightmare trip to the east side of Manchester where they take on Droylsden in a 7.45pm kick off.

But it might be worth navigating through the teatime traffic on the M60 as 'The Bloods' have only won one of four home games this season and only sit four points ahead of Skem in the table.

They have conceded 15 goals in the league this season so there may be hopes of Dave Powell's forwards finally finding their scoring boots.

Both teams are at home on Saturday, October 6, Burscough play Northwich 1874 again, while Skem have something of a local derby and something of a reunion when they welcome Widnes to Volair Park.

The lads from this side of the Mersey Gateway Bridge are managed jointly by former Skelmersdale United legends Steve Akrigg and Kevin Towey, so it will be an interesting afternoon as they make a welcome return to West Lancashire.

Hartley the leading wicket taker for Ormskirk

IT'S now time to have a look back at the league statistics in the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition over the past six months, starting this week with our four top local clubs, Northern, Ormskirk, Formby and Bootle, *writes Glenn Wallworth.*

James Cole led Northern to the Premier Division title, and leading the way with the bat was Liam Grey with 684 runs @ 38.00, with 3 x 100, 3 x 50 HS 101*, whilst valuable support came from Chris Laker 509 @ 25.45, 2 x 50 HS 72, Justin Snow 470 @ 36.15, 1 x 50 HS 58, James Cole himself with 345 @ 24.64, 2 x 50 HS 82* and Hayden McCrae 338 @ 30.73, 1 x 100, 1 x 50 HS 110*.

Tom Sephton topped the divisional bowling charts with a magnificent 93 wickets at an average of 10.61, a best 9-60 and 9 x 5 wickets, all rounder Grey backed him up with 34 @ 15.21, a best 8-46 and the versatile Snow weighed in with 30 @ 14.17, a best 5-30, in the field Laker took 15 catches and Grey 12, whilst J Cole took 25 victims behind the stumps with 21 catches and 4 stumpings.

Nicky Caunce led Ormskirk to the runners up spot and had the top division's second highest run scorer in his ranks as John Armstrong hit 737 @ 38.79, 2 x 100, 3 x 50 HS 114, with back up coming from Josh Bohannon 523 @ 52.30, 6 x 50 HS 86*, Andy Baybutt 464 @ 24.42, 3 x 50 HS 83, Alex Rankin 386 @ 24.13, 3 x 50 HS 86 and Gary Knight 349 @ 21.81 HS 45.

Tom Hartley led the way with the ball and finished third highest wicket taker in the division with 58 @ 12.12, best of 7-69 and 6 x 5 wicket hauls, Scott Lees took 32 @ 19.03, best of 4-20 and Ryan Maddock 26 @ 17.96 with best of 4-19, in the field Armstrong took 12 catches and Knight 10, whilst George Lavelle took 22 victims behind the stumps with 19 catches and 3 stumpings.

James Seward led Formby to third place with 438 runs @ 29.20, 1 x 50 HS 79*, backed up by Tim Smithies 402 @ 25.13, 2 x 50 HS 91, Ollie Sutton 370 @ 33.64, 2 x 50 HS 83, Sam Oldham 363 @ 21.35, 2 x 50 HS 50, Lukman Vahaluwala 333 @ 27.75, 2 x 50 HS 83*, Karl Brown 324 @ 36.00, 1 x 100 HS 100*.

Sabbir Patel led the way with the ball with 51 wickets @ 15.43, best of 6-18 and 4 x 5 wickets, he was backed up by Vahaluwala 46 @ 11.22 best of 6-15 and Ben Aitchison 25 @ 20.48 best of 5-23, in the field Elliot Ketteringham and Aitchison both took 15 catches, whilst Seward weighed in with 38 victims behind the stumps with 34 catches and 4 stumpings.

Craig Prince led Bootle to fourth place in the table, with Will Hale leading the way with the bat with 526 runs @ 32.88, 3 x 50 HS 72, whilst back up came from Vishal Tripathi 512 @ 34.13, 3 x 50 HS 64*, Michael Farrell 494 @ 26.00, 1 x 100 3 x 50 HS 117, Sam Kershaw 485 @ 26.94, 1 x 100 4 x 50 HS 101, Danny Davies 467 @ 29.19, 3 x 50 HS 71 and Neil Williams 399 @ 28.50, 3 x 50 HS 67.

Chris Liptrot led the way with the ball with 47 wickets @ 16.21, best of 9-18 and 4 x 5 wickets, whilst support came from Bharat Tripathi 44 @ 16.34 best 7-47 and Will Purser 28 @ 21.14 best 7-39, in the field Hale took 12 catches and Farrell 10 whilst Williams took 14 victims behind the stumps with 13 catches and a stumping.

Ormskirk have already bolstered their squad with the signing of opening batsman Tyler McGladdery from Ranhill who topped the Premier Division run scoring charts in 2018 with 936 @ 49.26 with 2 x 100 & 7 x 50 and HS 124, whilst Formby have boosted their squad with all rounder Dave Atkinson from Rainhill who scored 482 runs @ 25.37 with 3 x 50 and HS 89* and took 39 wickets @ 19.87 with a best of 6-51.

Bootle captain Craig Prince has stepped down at Wadham Road and will be replaced by Neil Williams, whose first job will be to replace the departing Prince, Chris Liptrot (retiring) and Bharat Tripathi (returning to Burnley).

Next week it's the turn of First and Second Division sides Southport & Birkdale, Ainsdale, Fleetwood Hesketh, Burscough, Maghull, Southport Trinity and Hightown St Mary's.

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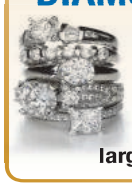
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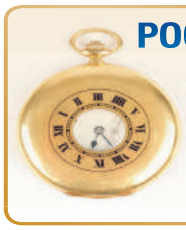
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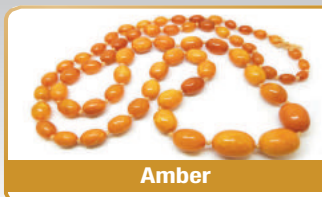
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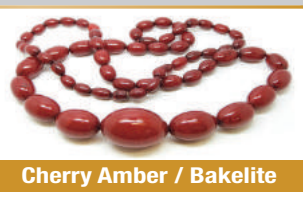
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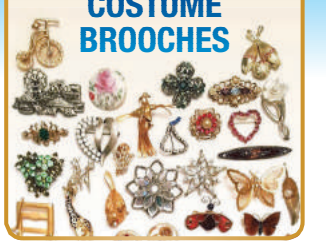
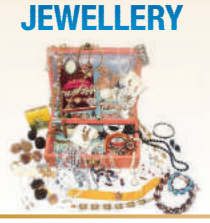


BOXES OF COSTUME JEWELLERY



MINIATURE PORTRAITS

ART NOUVEAU JEWELLERY

ROLLED GOLD

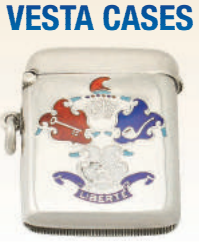
GOLD LOCKETS

MILITARY MEDALS

ANTIQUE SILVER

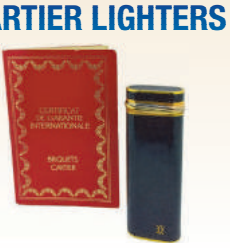
OLD GOLD WATCH CHAINS

VESTA CASES



SCOTTISH SILVER

CARTIER LIGHTERS



DRESSING TABLE SETS

ENAMEL CIGARETTE CASES

CAMEO BROOCHES

CORAL JEWELLERY

SILVER TEA SERVICES

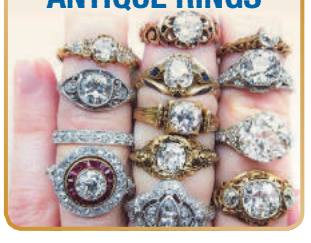
COIN BRACELETS

VINTAGE COMPACTS

ANTIQUE BANGLES

SILVER HAT PINS

ANTIQUE RINGS



BAKELITE JEWELLERY

ART DECO JEWELLERY

VINTAGE GLASS NECKLACES

VINTAGE & ANTIQUE AMBER NECKLACES & BEADS WANTED!

GOOD AMBER NECKLACES ARE COMMANDING VERY HIGH PRICES, DO YOU HAVE ONE HIDDEN AWAY? BRING IT ALONG & FIND OUT WHAT IT'S WORTH!

Enquiries 07981 688278 or visit WWW.WINDSORBULLION.CO.UK

WE WISH TO PURCHASE IN ANY CONDITION

WRISTWATCHES, POCKET WATCHES & UNUSUAL TIME PIECES

Avia
Accurist
Breitling
Cartier
Gerrard
I.W.C
J W Benson
Jaeger LeCoultre
Longines
Mappin & Webb
Military
Omega
Oris
Patek Philippe
Pocket Watches
Rolex
Rotary
Roamer
Seiko
Smiths
Tag Heuer
Tissot
Tudor
Vacheron & Constantin
Zenith
etc etc

CARRIAGE CLOCKS

DIAMOND COCKTAIL WATCHES

1970's WATCHES

GOLD POCKET WATCHES

ANTIQUE SILVER POCKET WATCHES

ART DECO WATCHES

GOLD PLATED WATCHES

MILITARY POCKET WATCHES

TRENCH WRISTWATCHES

LADIES GOLD WATCHES

MENS GOLD WATCHES

PREMIUM WRISTWATCHES, ROLEX, OMEGA ETC

MILITARY WRISTWATCHES

REPEATER POCKET WATCHES

STAINLESS STEEL WATCHES

NONE GOLD VINTAGE WATCHES

WE SPECIALISE IN HIGH GRADE FOREIGN GOLD

WITH OR WITHOUT HALLMARKS

INDIAN - TURKISH
SAUDI - THAI
IN ANY CONDITION!
14CT, 18CT,
21CT, 22CT, 24CT

Enquiries 07981 688278 or visit WWW.WINDSORBULLION.CO.UK

GOLD, SILVER & COLLECTABLES WANTED FOR CASH

IF YOU HAVE OLD, BROKEN, UNUSED, UNWANTED **GOLD** JEWELLERY IN ANY CONDITION BRING IT TO THE EXPERTS, AT OUR

4 DAY ROADSHOW

PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL

Lord Street, Southport, PR8 1JS

Monday 1st October 10am - 4pm
Tuesday 2nd October 10am - 4pm
Wednesday 3rd October 10am - 4pm
Thursday 4th October 10am - 3pm

DISCREET HOME VISITS AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA - PLEASE CALL SARAH ON 07981 688278

VINTAGE 1950's, 1960's, 1970's, 1980's WATCHES WANTED

ROLEX • OMEGA • ENICAR • TAG HEUER • LEMANIA • YEMA • BREITLING • ZENITH • ETERNA • IWC • JAEGER LECOULTRE

WANTED ANY WATCHES WITH CHRONOGRAPH OR MULTI DIALS

DOUBLE / SINGLE BUTTONS

UNSURE? BRING IT ALONG TO FIND OUT

VINTAGE OMEGA SPEEDMASTERS WANTED IN ANY CONDITION

WORKING NOT WORKING PARTS MISSING

WE WILL PAY A MINIMUM OF £500 FOR A BROKEN1960'S OMEGA SPEEDMASTER

DIVERS WATCHES • RALLY WATCHES • MILITARY WATCHES • PILOTS WATCHES • ANY CONDITION

PREMIUM PAID FOR WATCHES WITH ORIGINAL BOX & PAPERS - WHOLE COLLECTIONS PURCHASED

WE BUY GOLD & SILVER COINS IN ANY CONDITION

Gold Coins
Gold Bars
Silver Coins
Silver Bars
Sovereigns
Krugerrands
Coin Sets
£5 Piece
Antique Gold & Silver Coins
Fine Gold
Guineas
Britannias
Foreign Gold Coins
Pre 1947 Silver Coins

This Week's Full Sovereign Price £200

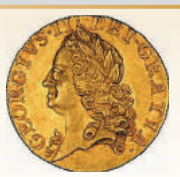
SOVEREIGNS

COIN PENDANTS

KRUGERANDS

COIN RINGS

GOLD PROOF SETS



ANTIQUE GOLD COINS

SILVER PROOF SETS

PRE 1947 SILVER COINS

SILVER CROWNS

WE PAY 8 X FACE VALUE FOR PRE 1947 SILVER COINS HALF CROWNS • SHILLINGS • FLORINS • SIXPENCE • THREEPENCE